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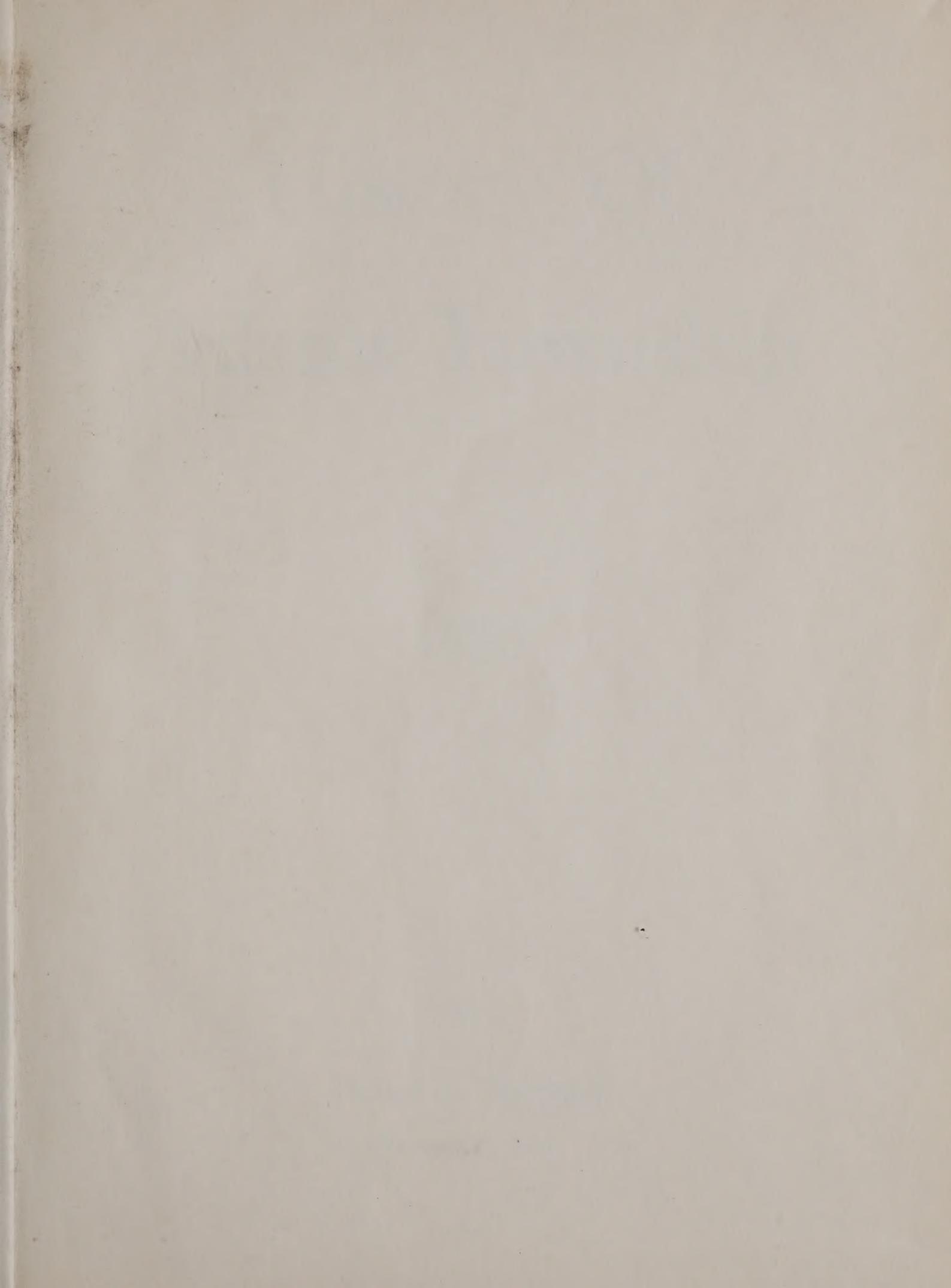
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History Of Adams Township

Indiana

1950

By

Harold L. Freeland

Sunman, Ind.

A story of Adams Township and its towns and villages from facts gleaned from the memories of those who were here when this territory was young.

As golden tints at dewy eve
Fade from a western sky,
So each day's hours of human life

Pass quickly, lightly by;
But still the sun of fancy sheds
O'er olden scenes her rays,
And still on memory's sky there dwells
The glow of other days.

As human life is but a drama that is played upon a stage for which the world is a gigantic setting and its people are the players, it is to be deeply regretted that the traditions of our early pioneers and an accurate account of the role each played has not been recorded and preserved, for as those hardy settlers who first cleared away the forests and rescued the land from the savages and the wild beasts have long since passed on to their reward and they in turn are fast being followed by their children and their children's children, it is quite needless to say that historical matter held only in memory is sure to lose many of its valuable features when handed down from generation to generation. With this fact in mind we spent many hours through several years of the decade of the twenties in the pleasurable and interesting work of drawing from the memories of a number of the old-timers of those years, a striking portrayal of the early days in Adams Township and its towns and villages. The possession of this historical material of undoubted truth and interest enabled us to compile a history of this territory which was completed and published by the Batesville Tribune in 1928.

Among those whose keen memories contributed to making the writing of the history possible were: Fred Tangman, T. W. W. Sunman, Dr. E. B. Vincent, Martin Mollenkamp, J. H. Nieman, Henry Hoff, Andrew Schneider, G. W. Trautman, Henry Stephens, Amelia Uter, Carline Diver and the Writer's mother, Mrs. Flora B. Freeland.

With the passing of a score of years since the publication of that writing many changes have been wrought. Death played its grim part as all whose names we have mentioned have long since passed on and it is to their memory that we dedicate this revised history which we sincerely hope will be of interest to its readers and pre-

served for posterity. To several of our County officials and to a number of residents of this township area we are indebted for favors and generous assistance in the collection of data and for the loan of photographs. Also valuable information was secured from an early history of Ripley County as compiled by Ed. C. Jerman in 1888.

Before entering upon our narrative of Adams Township we wish to present a brief history of Ripley County as to its beginning and descriptive of its geographical and topographical features.

Ripley County, located in southeastern Indiana, is approximately fourteen miles from the Ohio boundary on the east and twelve miles from the Ohio River and Kentucky on the south at the nearest points. It is bounded on the north by Decatur and Franklin Counties, on the east by Dearborn and Ohio Counties, on the south by Switzerland and Jefferson Counties and on the west by Jennings County. The area of the county is two hundred eighty-eight thousand acres or four hundred fifty square miles, its longest distance from north to south being twenty-seven miles and from east to west nineteen miles. The elevation of the county averages from six hundred to eleven hundred feet above tide water and its highest point one mile north of Sunman in the northern part is said to be the second highest in the state. The soil is mostly a porous clay containing some lime but can be made much more productive by being properly under drained and fertilized. A natural drainage system is provided by Little and Big Laughery Creeks, Little and Big Graham Creeks, Ripley Creek, Cedar Creek, Otter Creek and Ross' Run. The sources of Hogan and Pine Creeks can also be added to the system.

The bottom lands bordering on the creeks and whose soils are formed of recent deposits are highly valued for the raising of corn but for general purposes they are not superior to the uplands when well drained and fertilized. The principal products grown are wheat, oats, rye, corn, potatoes, tomatoes, many other vegetables and timothy and clover. Alfalfa is grown in some parts. The timber is oak, hickory, beech, walnut, sycamore, ash, poplar, elm and maple all of which is rapidly disappearing due to the many saw mills that have been in operation at various places about the county over a period of eighty years as they supplied high grade hardwood lumber for the making of furniture and provided materials for the erection of buildings.

The geological formation is blue limestone of the lower salurian in layers between which there is a clay so compressed as to form a mud stone which soon disintegrates when exposed to air and moisture. The limestone is usually rich in fossil remains and is excellent for paving material and for use as a fertilizer. The porous clay is excellent for brick and tile making.

Ripley County had its beginning late in December of the year 1816 soon after the admission of Indiana into the Union, when the new state by a legislative act provided for the organization of five new counties, one of which was named Ripley as an honor to Gen. E. P. Ripley of the Army of 1812.

The county began with three townships, Laughery in the center and east part, Graham in the west and Perry in the south but three years later Laughery was divided and the cut taken therefrom was given the name of Hogan Township. This was followed in 1820-21 by other divisions that added Ripley and Ontario Townships.

As the county became more thickly populated the necessity of smaller townships was quite evident and in 1822 the six townships then existing were discarded and the county reorganized into eight townships, namely, Brown, Delaware, Franklin, Henry, Jackson, Johnson, Shelby and Washington, and in May of 1825 Adams Township was formed from northern Franklin. In November of the same year Otter Creek was formed from parts of Shelby and Jackson to give the county ten townships which number remained unchanged until 1858 when Center came into existence since which time the township lines have not undergone any changes. As to how Adams Township received its name we have been unable to learn.

The township is located in the northeast corner of Ripley County, is bounded on the north by Franklin County, on the east by Dearborn County, on the south by Franklin and Delaware Townships and on the west by Laughery Township. Having an area of approximately twenty-eight thousand acres or forty-three and one-half square miles, its longest distance from north to south is six miles and from east to west eight and one-half along the northern boundary and six and three-fourths miles along the south line. It has an average elevation of nine hundred feet above tide water and has a good natural drainage system in the southern part as provided by Sunman and Hogan Creeks both of which have a source

near Sunman and in the northern part by Pipe Creek. Like other parts of Ripley County the soil is mostly a porous clay in need of under drainage and fertilizer to make it more productive although with proper weather conditions and an adequate amount of muscle power the soil of Adams Township will produce bumper crops of wheat, corn, soy beans, potatoes, tomatoes and other food stuffs. Once covered in its entirety by an unbroken expanse of forest of the finest of hardwood timber the territory is now practically barren of trees in large tracts or woods due to the presence through the years of mills being in almost constant operation in woodworking industries.

And now for the story of Adams Township from the beginning we will first present a word picture, as we might term it, of this territory as it appeared to the first arrivals who seemed to enjoy the relating of those events that surrounded their lives as pioneers; of their journeys across the Alleghenies; their flat-boat voyages down the Ohio River; the trails through the unknown wilderness; of their first years of scanty living and hard toil among the roots and stumps; of their crude home-made furniture and implements; of their hunting parties, husking-bees and log-rollings and many other incidents all of which had been so indelibly stamped upon their minds that time could not remove even though they had long since passed their allotted time of life and were living upon borrowed years.

Inasmuch as the majority of our early settlers here were either natives of eastern states or were residents there for a time following their arrival in America from foreign lands, it is perhaps well, to narrate the trend of the advancing column of civilization that was then slowly feeling its way down the Ohio with the lines gradually widening but ever pushing forward as each fresh victory over various and numerous obstacles that impeded progress gave impetus to the movement.

The doubt and despair that often threatened to conquer the ardor of the adventurers were swept aside by the enthusiasm that was gained upon sight of the rich and fertile country that daily confronted them and as each scene impressed them with the fact that they were at the gate-way of the unknown West; that somewhere in those unbroken forests stretching dark and silent before them were to be their future homes, stories of this vast and remarkable new world would drift back

to the folks at home, new expeditions would be organized with the result that a steady stream of immigration was soon wending its way toward the land of the setting sun.

With this introduction completed and as a fitting beginning to the history proper let us reverse time and permit our minds to carry us back to the year of Ripley County's organization when we find this territory later to be named Adams Township, a tract of some twenty-eight thousand acres of forest land, the home of countless birds, animals and reptiles but broken however by a few small clearings in the midst of which is found a lone log cabin, the home of some settler who had braved the dangers of the trail and arrived safely to begin life anew in this new world.

While it is not definitely known as to the identity of the first settler in this territory of Adams Township, Mr. Jerman, in his writing in 1888, gave that distinction to Richard and Dorcas Wortman whom it is stated, arrived here from Kentucky in 1815 and became established in a cabin home in the midst of a tract of forest some five miles due west of the present site of the town of Sunman. Real Estate records of Ripley County show however, that on September 1, 1838 a U. S. Patent was given to Mr. Wortman for 120 acres in this Township. The cabin served as a home for three generations of the Wortman family. Following the death of George Wortman, son of Richard and Dorcas Wortman, the tract of valuable timber was purchased by Galbraith & Son in 1911 who later sold the cleared land to Louis Minneman, the present owner.

The first settler of which there is any official record was John Sunman who with his son Thomas W. Sunman arrived here from England in 1819 and established a home in the midst of a two hundred acre tract of timberland which, during later years was known as the Fitch homestead. Located one mile west of the present site of Penntown, its passing into strange hands some years ago ended more than a century of ownership by some member of this pioneer family. The son Thomas immediately returned to England and the following year brought other members of the family to their new home in America.

The coming of the Sunman family was soon followed by the arrival of the McKee family who settled a few miles to the east of the Wortman home at the place

now known as the Kammeyer Corner, where, in later years they operated the first sawmill in the township, an old "up and down" type of mill which not even the oldest of today remembers.

A short time later settlements were made by the families of John Cairns, John Clark and Thomas Somerville in what is now the Penntown vicinity, Mr. Cairns establishing a home upon land later owned by the Brumpter Brothers and now the home of the George Martin family; Mr. Clark upon land that later became a part of the T. W. W. Sunman farm, now owned by George Gutzwiler, the place today being marked by graves that are looked upon as the last resting places of the township's first dead. Mr. Somerville established his home upon the land now the home of the Henry Hildebrand family immediately south of Penntown.

Being well educated and a man of considerable affluence, Mr. Sunman soon became widely known and his home was opened daily, not only to his neighbors, but to people from long distances who came to him for advice upon business matters or for financial assistance.

Imbued with an unusual amount of progressive spirit, he was quite instrumental in the establishment and the success of various improvements in the community that prompted others to locate here, as each succeeding month found new clearings and new cabins scattered about through the territory, among which to arrive here during the decades of the twenties and thirties were: the Bennett family who settled on the farm now owned by William Hoff, the Johnson family on the farm now the home of Harry and Gus Richter, the William Bower family on the Paul Gaab farm with a family named Perkinson locating in the immediate vicinity. The Bensons settled on the place now owned by Louis Brandt, formerly the Twin Oak farm; the Perrine family upon the present homestead of the John Dierckman family; a family named Vance upon the land now owned by the Loge Brothers, the Moon family upon the farm of the late Anthony Schneider and the Hollensbe family upon the land now occupied by Melvin Grossman.

While the majority of those early comers already mentioned were either English or Pennsylvania Dutch, the same period of time saw the coming of the German Catholic families of Nicholas

Behr, Lewis Retzner, John Gauck, Joseph Schmaltz, Michael Forthofe and Nicholas Federle who established homes in the vicinity that later received the name of St. Nicholas.

In 1837 the township's first village was laid out in the north eastern part of the territory by James McCreery, William Chenney and George Furgeson and was given the name Pennsylvaniaburg in honor of their native state, but the name was later changed to that of Penntown, as it is now known, although recorded on Government records and maps as Ashton Post Office.

Advancing time to the year 1851, let us view with our mind's eye the quarter section of land that now lies within the corporate boundaries of the town of Sunman, where we find John Tangman, then a young man of nineteen years, erecting a log cabin upon a little plot of ground which he had just purchased for a consideration of ten dollars. This cabin was destined to become the first business house in a village that today, ninety-seven years later, is a thriving business town of some five hundred inhabitants including those residing contiguous to the corporate limits. The logs of that first building have long since returned to earth while upon its site there now stands another structure of modern times, the substantial business and residence building of Mr. and Mrs. Mercidith Gunter (The Clover Farm Store) that forms a nucleus around which other business and residence buildings have arisen as time has checked off the passing years.

At the time of the coming of Mr. Tangman, this quarter section of land was divided into four tracts of forty acres each, the N. E. forty being owned by Barzilla Stuart, who occupied a cabin that was located near the present site of the Cassius Lauber residence, while a short distance to the south and located near the present site of the Mrs. Emma Nieman home were the cabins of Mr. Stuart's sons, Albert and Edson Stuart.

The S. E. forty was owned by Fred Leffler whose cabin stood upon the land now occupied by the Avery Webster home.

John Wrede, owner of the S. W. forty resided in a cabin that was located several hundred yards to the rear of the present home of the Roman Federle family and an old well still to be seen there remains a lone marker of the site of that pioneer home.

The N. W. forty, owned by Peter Bleistein, was yet untouched by the axe, but its blows of destruc-

tion were soon to be heard as workmen neared the settlement in their task of clearing the way for a double line of steel that was slowly but steadily worming its way westward from Lawrenceburg to Indianapolis.

Thus, after thirty-five years since the supposed advent of Mr. Wortman, we find the township dotted with numerous clearings and cabins, the homes of a resolute people who must have possessed an unlimited amount of entertainment to prompt them to sever home ties that bound them to the places of their birth and bring them to this new country where the stern face of nature would confront them with hardships and privations.

We of today cannot conceive what we owe to those people who made possible for us the things we now enjoy. The hardships they suffered will never be known and the privations they were compelled to endure often taxed the limit of human endurance, but they came here to prepare homes for us and they succeeded.

That we may have a clearer conception of their early living, let us linger for a while and in fancy live with them during their first years of residence here. The forest as it appeared in its primitive luxuriance to the eyes of those pioneers is difficult to describe, for no woodland of today, even in the remotest spot, retains that rich and exuberant garb that nature once gave it, so therefore the labor of clearing off those giant oaks, hickories, poplars and other woods that arose out of a thick undergrowth of herbage and shrubbery was a task in itself. From two to three weeks were required for an unaided settler to clear an acre of ground with the axe and firebrand, his only implements of destruction, for the common mode of clearing was to cut down all trees of a diameter of two feet and less and then apply the torch. The larger trees were deadened by girdling and allowed to remain standing until they decayed and fell which often delayed the final clearing from eight to ten years.

The erection of his cabin was another task that confronted the settler and one in which the assistance of neighbors was quite essential and freely given. Cabin raising was celebrated as a noteworthy event and as a social function had a most prominent place in the settler's short list of pleasures, for it brought together all of the inhabitants from miles around, the women to look on and gossip, the children to play and the men to labor in the moving and laying of

the heavy timbers. The work was hard, yet those hardy men, those low-voiced women and merry children regarded the work as something far more significant than the mere building of a cabin; for a kindred spirit, the spirit of the pioneer, drew them together into one large family and this was another cabin; another home; another advance toward the conquest of the wilderness for which brave men and brave women were giving their lives. Even in the bright-eyed children's glee as they clapped their hands at the mounting logs, one could easily detect the spirit that prevailed in this march of civilization.

When a cabin was to be raised the settler would prepare for the work beforehand by cutting the trees and rolling the logs to the cabin site or dragging them in if a yoke of oxen could be secured. He then would lay the foundation of logs or of undressed stone if such was at hand, make ready the skids and forks, and then early in the morning of the appointed day the neighbors would assemble and with much boisterousness and hilarity the new home would be completed before nightfall.

The first cabins were made of round logs, notched at the ends to prevent slipping. The spaces between were filled with twigs and clay, but these cabins however, were soon succeeded by hewed log structures that were more pretentious and much more comfortable. Even as the houses of today, these crude homes were erected in such manner as to conform to the taste and the means of the person building.

For a large family, a double cabin would sometimes be erected, that is, two cabins would be built ten or twelve feet apart with one roof covering the whole, the space between being used for various purposes, but oftentimes serving as a chicken roost, pig-sty or sheep fold.

The roof was generally constructed of clapboards that were held in place by long poles or saplings called weight-poles, that extended across the roof to which they were secured by wooden pegs. The floor was of puncheons or slabs split from straight-grained logs with the upper or floor side hewed off as smooth as possible.

The single door, made either of puncheons or clapboards, was hung on wooden hinges and fastened on the inside with a wooden latch to which was attached a thong of buckskin that was passed through a hole or crack in the door so that the latch could be lifted from the outside, which brought into use the familiar term, "My latch-

string is always on the outside" which meant that visitor was always welcome.

Sometimes the cabin was graced with one or two small windows, generally about two feet square and usually open except during stormy or winter weather when they would then be covered with an oiled or greased paper that served fairly well in line of glass.

Last, but far from being the least, was the great open fire-place also built of logs and lined with clay or undressed stone, but even then it would sometimes catch on fire and it was not an uncommon sight to see a quickly erected cabin be more quickly destroyed.

Within this humble home could be found articles of furniture, usually made of puncheon, the handiwork of the settler himself. A table, a cupboard, a few benches or chairs and a bed constituted the list and in some homes the last named could not be included as the bedding was placed on the floor of a loft or attic that was reached by means of a ladder that would be drawn up after the family had retired as an extra protection against night prowlers.

Hanging on a wooden peg over the door or fire-place was the old flint-lock rifle, powder horn and bullet pouch all of which was considered as being next to the axe in usefulness. In another part of the room, usually near the fire-place was the spinning wheel and reel which were considered absolute necessities in every home. Suspended from the rafters and from pegs along the wall were strings of dried fruits, vegetables and herbs and strips of dried venison and bear meat for deer and bears remained here in large numbers for some years after the township's settlement.

Upon a shelf, usually over the fire-place, might be found a few china dishes, highly prized by the good housewife as keep-sakes from her mother, while gracing it's center or occupying a prominent place upon the table was a demijohn, whose contents ranked first as a home necessity, for whiskey was not only a common drink but was kept in practically every home as a cure-all, a remedy for snake-bites, stomach and bowel trouble, frosted feet, sprains, broken bones, and in fact any and all ailments that a human being might contract.

At the log-rollings, husking-bees, cabin-raisings and even at the quiltings, whiskey was freely passed as a common beverage and it was considered a breach of hospitality for a host not to offer

a visitor the bottle and an insult to the host not to accept it.

With whiskey selling at from thirty to forty cents per gallon, the question as to whether intemperance was more common then than in the years immediately preceding the enactment of liquor and prohibition laws, is not easily settled, but though the liquors of those days were considered to be purer, the notion that they were less intoxicating seems not to have been well founded, for excess in drinking then, as later, brought poverty, pain and death.

The cooking utensils were few and simple, the cooking and baking being done at the open fire-place in large pots and Dutch ovens.

Although to have a store of food for the winter was a task that required much forethought and labor, every home, as a general rule, was well provided for the size of the winter's supply was a proof of the family to be self-supporting and forehanded.

Potatoes, cabbage and turnips were plentiful and were usually buried out of doors in much the same manner as some do today, but in some homes the vegetables were placed in shallow cellars or trenches beneath the floor of the cabin with one of the puncheons being left loose to give easy access to the stores. Wild berries, grapes and apples were gathered and dried to be used later as winter luxuries as were also strips of dried pumpkin and squash.

The question of securing the winter's meat supply was one that did not trouble the settler for wild game was abundant and the streams teemed with fish. Although the buffalo and elk, probably never numerous, were now enjoying the freedom of the western plains, the black bear and red deer remained here in fairly large numbers for some years after the arrival of the first white families. Wild turkeys could be taken in large numbers and squirrels were too common to be regarded as valuable for food but rather as a pest for the settlers oftentimes had to keep unceasing vigilance in order to protect their crops from their ravages.

Practically every family had a corn patch, from which the best ears were gathered and stored for meal as corn-pone was then considered as being the "staff of life" and as almost every settler had a cow or two there was always an ample supply of mush and milk.

Upon the arrival of the vanguard of winter the door and windows would be closed; a big backlog, usually a buckeye on account of its combustibility, would be rolled into place and the great

fire-place kindled to cast heat and light throughout the long dreary days and nights of winter. Bits of Hickory bark would be fed the flames occasionally when a brighter light was desired for candles and lamps were unknown for a few years and when they did finally come into use they were very crude and purely domestic in their manufacture.

The first candles were made by taking a small wooden stick ten or twelve inches in length, around which would be wrapped strips of cloth and the whole then covered with deer tallow. These were called "sluts," which, with an average length of ten inches, would afford light for several nights.

Lamps were later made by dividing a large turnip in half, then scraping out the inside quite down to the rind and filling the shell with melted tallow or lard into which a three or four inch "slut" would be inserted for a wick. By the light of these primitive lamps and the open fire-place the long winter months would be spent in comfort and contentment but not in idleness, for there were numerous tasks to claim attention. There was corn to shell and then pounded into meal; tow to spin and wool to card, for weaving, spinning, dyeing and tailoring were necessary tasks in every home as the wearing apparel of those days was almost entirely of home manufacture.

Cotton was very scarce and the flax and wool necessary for clothing were raised and prepared at home.

The flax, when ready for harvesting, was first pulled and allowed to weather until the stem became brittle when it would be hacked or broken into short pieces so that the parts hung together only by the fibrous outside bark. It was then put through a "scratching" process or in other words, the broken pieces of stems were combed out, thus leaving a soft, bluish fibre which was then tied into hanks to be later spun and then woven into linen cloth.

The wool, after being shorn from the sheep, was first washed and the burs picked out which oftentimes was quite a task. It then was carded or combed ready for spinning into yarn that was later knitted or woven into cloth for winter apparel.

Oftentimes the wool from white and black sheep would be mixed or the spun yarn would be dyed with juice from walnut or buttermilk hulls which gave the finished cloth a grayish-brown color and the name "Butternut." Again a mixture of flax fibre and wool, woven together, made a cloth known



Looking south along Meridian St. in Sunman in 1895 and taken from a point where the cedar tree on the Hoff Hotel property now stands. The three-gabled building adjoining the Greve livery barn has four business rooms two of which only were occupied at that time, they being the center rooms in which William Osting conducted a barber business and William McMullen a meat market in the other. The large brick building is the Bielby residence and storeroom and the little white cottage where now stands the Schene Drug Store is the home of the Abraham sisters who conducted a milinery business. The cottage since moved some feet to the south is the present home of the Stephens family. Next can be seen the Old Brick Church and in the distance the home of Dr. Neufarth and the Albert Behlmer store building. In the group occupying the center of the street are: Michael Meister with a square in hand, William Osting, Charles Clifton and Walter Bigney, Fred Grose, Fred Wolter and little daughter, Gertie, Fred Hockney, Otto Beer and Harry Hockney. In the rear are William Dreyer, John Stephens and Henry Osting aboard his cart behind Old Nance. The rough stone sidewalk and the plank-covered ditch were late improvements.



Saddle bags used by the writer's father, Dr. J. P. Freeland, during the 70's and 80's.



Burrs or mill-stones used in the Weis flour mill near Weisburg in early years. The stones are now relics in the yard at the Alvin Bruns home.



General view of the ruins of the fire of March 23, 1905 that wiped out the business center of Sunman. Taken from a window of the K. of P. hall. The pump in the foreground stood just inside the livery barn at the rear of which the fire started. The pump today stands at the corner of the Dreyer home. X marks the present site of the Peoples Bank and Trust Co. building.



The Wortman barn erected at the same time as the cabin.

as "Linsey-Woolsey" that was quite popular and extensively used for men's wear.

Sometimes a full suit of buskin with moccasins and coon-skin cap would be seen, but these were worn principally by men whose lives as hunters or guides were spent almost entirely in the open. Although a few made their own boots and shoes this work was usually done by someone in the community who was more dexterous as a cobbler than his neighbors.

Even though much of the energy of the pioneers was used in clearing off the forest in order that the sun might have a better opportunity to warm the soil, there was yet much work to do before the seed could be sown for agriculture was yet in its infancy and the implements than in use were few and crude, a plow or two, a few sickles, scythes, hoes and wooden forks and rakes usually constituting the list.

The task of breaking the ground was attended with much difficulty on account of the network of roots that had been thrown out in all directions by the giant trees, but these obstacles were overcome to some extent by the use of the bar-share plow which consisted of a bar or iron about two feet long to which was welded a broad iron share. This was attached to a wooden beam six or seven feet in length at the front end of which was a "coulter" or heavy knife which prevented the plow from becoming fast under the large roots and which could cut and dig its way through the smaller ones. The moldboard was of wood split out of a curved piece of timber or hewed into a curved shape to turn the soil over. The entire length of the plow from the fore end of the beam to the ends of the handles was from eight to ten feet, but despite the size and clumsy appearance it nevertheless did good work and remained in use long after the introduction of the castiron plow.

The shovel plow, not unlike those in use in the present day, was also extensively used and answered an excellent purpose in the loose soil after the ground had been broken.

The first harrowing was accomplished by dragging a heavy limb of brush over the newly plowed ground, but this was soon succeeded by harrows made of bars of wood through which wooden teeth were driven; crude and homely in construction, but well serving the purpose for which they were made.

Although oxen were used to a great extent for the drawing of

these implements, the horse was also used and was usually driven single and equipped with harness of novel construction. The bridle was made of rope with an iron bit; the collar of corn shucks and the hames were shaped from a crooked hickory root and fastened at the top and bottom with thongs of buskin. The backband was of tow cloth and the traces of rope, looped at one end so as to hitch over the whiffle-tree that was notched at each end to prevent the traces from slipping off.

The whiffle-tree or single-tree was attached to the plow by a hickory with and sometimes by a wooden clevis made of two pieces of wood with wooden pins.

A single rope line attached to the bridle guided the horse, but this was seldom needed after the horse had become broken to driving commands.

Harvesting was also attended with many difficulties in the absence of horse-drawn, labor-saving machinery, which confronted the settler with long hours of hard, hand-blistering labor.

The harvesting of hay, however, was a simple matter, the cutting being accomplished with the sickle and scythe, a task slow and laborious. After being properly cured the hay was then handraked into bunches and stacked in the field, but the harvesting of wheat and other grains was a task far different. This cutting was also done with a sickle, one of the most ancient of farming implements which was later succeeded by the cradle. After cutting, the grain was raked into bundles, tied and shocked until threshing time, the separation of the grain from the straw being accomplished by either of two methods, the use of the flail or tramping out with horses, the latter method, however, being the more common.

In either case, whether with flail or by horse, a space of ground would first be cleaned off and then water-soaked and tamped until quite hard and smooth when dry. If the flail was to be used, the bundles of grain would be laid in a circle with the heads to the center and then beaten with this crude and simple implement until the separation was completed but if the tramping or treading method was to be the manner of threshing, a pole with a revolving arm attached to the top would be placed in the center of the cleared space, the bundles being placed upright in a circle around the pole in such manner that horses tied to the revolving arm would thresh out the grain by their steady tramping on the bundles. The threshing completed, the straw would then be removed

after which the grain and chaff would be gathered up and separated by the aid of a crude home-made fanning mill, but if none was available the cleaning would be accomplished by the winnowing process on windy days when the grain and chaff would be poured from one container, back and forth, to allow the wind to blow away the chaff and leave the grain.

Although the early farming was carried on in a crude way, the virgin soil of this new country produced bountiful results, but agriculture was not the road to wealth for these early settlers, for the surplus that was soon created was difficult to realize upon in money, for wagon roads were imperfect, canals and railroads unthought of and the distance to market so great that the early farmer had but little encouragement to increase the production of his fields beyond the wants of his family. In fact markets were so limited that marketing was hardly a factor.

Corn had no market price except in trade and then it was valued at about ten cents per bushel; wheat sold at from thirty to forty cents; hay at three to four dollars per ton, while vegetables, butter and eggs were scarcely valued sufficiently to have a price placed upon them at all, for almost every family had a garden patch, cows and chickens.

Fruits were as equally unmarketable for as soon as the country was found to be especially adapted to the growing of apples and cherries almost every farmer, as soon as he could, had set out an orchard and as there were none of the present day pests to injure or destroy the trees the result was an abundant yield of a choice quality of fruit.

The extreme difficulty of marketing produce prompted many of the settlers to turn their attention to stock-raising that soon became one of the most profitable methods of farming, especially the raising of hogs which found a ready market at Lawrenceburg and Aurora where pork-packing was becoming one of the principal industries.

The hogs of those days were not unlike the southern razor-back, long and slim, long snouted and long legged, arched back with bristles erect from head to tail, slab-sided and active. They were capable of becoming heavy but it required two or more years to reach maturity. Always on a search for food they were allowed to run at large and fatten upon the "mast" of the forest and very little attention was given them until roundup time in the fall when they would be gathered together

and corn-fed for a while before butchering or marketing.

The first cattle introduced by immigrants from Pennsylvania, Virginia and Kentucky were a mixed breed, being usually small, with wide-spread horns, large neck and small hips and loins. They also were allowed to wander through the woods to seek their own living and in winter found subsistence at a stack of wheat straw or in the cornfield after husking time.

Sheep of course, were extensively raised on account of the great necessity of wool, but they too, were of an inferior breed to the sheep of today.

Although oxen were used to some extent on account of their ability to work in many places, especially in swamps or marshes where horses were practically useless, nevertheless, many good horses were raised from the sturdy stock brought from the eastern states and as the land became generally cleared of the forests the interest in the improvement of the horse increased until the possession of good stock became a matter of pride with the farmer which soon led to the introduction of the Morgan, the Tom Crows and the Highlander breeds.

Thus you have been made acquainted with the manner of living as experienced by those:

Whose fathers tilled the virgin soil,
Content with honest thrift and toil;
And 'mid improvement e'er would praise
Those good old days.
Whose daughters knit while brothers ploughed,
Who wore home-spun and ne'er were proud;
And were so happy in their ways,
In those good old days.
Who went to church and market-place,
Quite satisfied with Dobbin's pace.
Which they preferred to swift railways,
In those good old days.
Who strove to help a brother through,
Not shave him first, then skin him too;
And yet they richer grew, always,
In those good old days.

As a whole, those people who had settled in this wild region were simple, honest and brave and accepted what came as facts not to be questioned; a people of plain men and plain women of good common sense, who enjoyed life without any of the refinements that luxury brings; a people whom hard work caused to grow old before their time.

A majority of them belonged to what might be termed as the mid-

dle class, as a few by affluence were placed above the necessity of labor with their own hands while fewer still were not so poor but that they could become owners of small farms.

The backwoods age was not a golden age and however pleasing it may be to contemplate the industry and frugality, the hospitality and general sociability of the people of those times, it would be improper to overlook the less pleasing features of their lives, for in the absence of the refinements of literature, music and other arts of today, men often engaged in rude and sometimes brutal amusements and public gatherings were often marred by scenes of drunken disorder and fighting.

The means of culture and intellectual improvement when not absent entirely, were quite inferior to those of later years. While some of the settlers had books and studied them, the majority, however, had but little time for reading or studying. Post roads and post offices were few and scattered, inhabitants rarely saw a newspaper or read a letter from absent relatives and friends; their knowledge of current events being obtained from the traveling preacher who, to them, was a most cultivated teacher.

But, as time pressed onward, a realization of the necessity of education dawned upon them and prompted the establishment of a public school and in 1831 the first schoolhouse in the township, a little frame structure, was erected on a hill a short distance to the west of Penntown, the site later being used as the township's Potter's Field.

Among the first teachers were: John Clark, Rozetta Reek and Irving Sunman who expounded the principles of readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic to pupils ranging in age from children of five years to grown-ups with families who took advantage of this their first opportunity to secure book learnin'.

This was soon followed by the erection of a second school building that was located on the southeast corner of the farm now owned by the Freyer brothers. The first teacher here was Eber Jones and among his primary pupils of the late forties was Freddy Tangman who lived on to the ripe old age of four score years and three, his death ending a long unbroken period of residence which had been passed within sight of the town of Sunman which he had watched grow from its first log cabin to a town of more than three hundred people.

A third school building, a log

structure, with puncheon benches and desks built around the room facing the walls was located one mile north of the present village of Morris and was in charge of Joseph Harvey, the first teacher.

During succeeding years, as an ever-increasing population necessitated, other schools were established in various parts of the township. One mile to the east of the village of Morris and located on the southwest corner of the land known later and for many years as the Eschenbrenner farm, was a fourth schoolhouse where Henry Osburn and Mary Jones were early teachers. A fifth, known as the Mound school, on account of its close proximity to an old Indian mound, was located near the present site of what is now known as the old Thomas cemetery. The school was taught by Jane Conaway for a few years until the erection of the present frame school building at Sharp's Corner in 1864 when the building was abandoned for school purposes and used as a house of worship by a religious sect called the "Feet-Washers."

Among the early teachers at Sharp's Corner were Henry Weber, who later became Sheriff of Ripley county, Henry Stockinger, Joseph Harvey, Addie Davis, C. M. Osburn and John Minger who for a number of years preceding his death in 1930, was cashier of the Farmers' National Bank at Sunman. Another early schoolhouse known as the McKee school, was a log structure that was located on the site later known as the Kammeier school. This was later replaced by a frame building that burned in 1882 and which in turn was replaced during the following year by a brick structure.

Other schools were established in communities that gave to them the names of Terry and Timke schools, but the names of the earlier teachers at those places could not be learned.

With educational means well established let us now view the early spiritual life in this territory. From the very beginning we find the settlers a God-fearing people whose first acts, following the establishment of homes, were to establish the church of their creed in their respective localities for a new comer, then as now, endeavored to locate, if possible, in a community where his neighbors were of his own particular religious belief.

The first to effect an organization here were the Baptists who, in 1823, under the leadership of Elder Tiner and his coadjutor, Robert Terry, formed a society that met in private homes until the erection of the schoolhouse for

merly mentioned as being located immediately west of Penntown, when a permanent society known as the Pipe Creek Baptist Church was organized under the pastorate of Rev. Daniel Palmer who held services in the school building until 1843 when a frame church house was erected at Penntown. After some twenty years of service the building was destroyed by fire and was immediately replaced by the brick structure that still remains standing. Following its organization the society gradually increased in membership and remained in a prosperous condition under the guidance of such pastors as the late Revs. E. Williams, James Babcock, John Stout, S. C. Perrine, James Smith, J. W. Nye, Alexander Connelley, William Maynard, Marion Hazen, Enoch Tilton, Nelson Holl and George W. Bower, but time, aided by various reverses, finally caused a decrease in membership and following the death of Rev. Bower in 1912 the society was disbanded.

A few years after the advent of the Baptists, the German Catholics who had settled in what is now the St. Nicholas community, but had been attending mass at New Alsace some eight miles to the east in Dearborn County and had walked the eight miles and return over a trail marked by blazed trees, organized a congregation in 1836, the first holy mass being celebrated at the home of Nicholas Baehr by Father Joseph Ferneding and the following year a log church was erected on ground donated by Nicholas Federle, Louis Retzner and Joseph Schmaltz. Other parish families were those of Joseph Federle, Anton Spaeth, Franz Mueller, Alex Berger and Nicholas Renner.

Several years later Father Ferneding was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Rudolph who was followed down through the years by Revs. Masquelet, Opermann, Munschina, Rev. Peter Kreusch, the first resident pastor who arrived in 1853, and it was during his pastorate that the present brick structure was erected in 1856. Following Rev. Kreusch as a resident pastor was Rev. Ignatius Klein who improved the church property by erecting a log schoolhouse in 1859 with his brother, Joseph Klein serving as the first teacher. Other pastors to follow were: Revs. Frudinger, Petersack, under whose pastorate the first Franciscan Sisters arrived in 1866; Revs. Stoltz, Schuck and Sepee; Rev. Gilig, under whose pastorate the present brick school building, parsonage and Sisters' dwelling were erected. Revs. Schwartz, Hilbert, Koester, Whiteman, Zogleman, Sonderman,

Schneider, Raap, Schenk, Riehl, Terstage, Janson, Conan and the present pastor Rev. John R. Betz.

The Catholics were followed in 1841 by the German Protestants who effected the organization of the St. John's Evangelical Protestant congregation at Penntown and during the pastorate of the first minister, Rev. Mueller, erected a frame church that was located several hundred feet to the rear of the present brick building. After several years Rev. Mueller was succeeded by Rev. Frederick Franke and he by Rev. Bersch who served the congregation until the late nineties when he in turn was succeeded by Rev. Merkel under whose pastorate the present brick edifice was erected in 1901. Other ministers to serve here in order were: Revs. Schmidt, Koch, Krieger, Wiggerman, Arndt, Werner, who was quite instrumental in the erection of the parish hall in 1921; Rev. Bohnenkamper, Weber, Hillman, Schoepfle and Rev. Kalkbrenner, the pastor now in charge.

In 1843 a fourth denomination made advent into the township with the organization of an English Methodist Society whose members erected a little frame church just east of the village of Penntown. The society soon disbanded, however, and the property was transferred to a society of German Methodists who later disposed of the property to a private purchaser when the society was moved to Lawrenceville, in Dearborn County. The little building was soon razed and the material used in the construction of a dwelling, now the home of the Edwin Richter family, the remaining site now being marked by a few time-colored slabs of stone marking the graves of the dead who were once devout members of that early organization.

With the early settlers practically the only means of locomotion was on foot or on horseback. The farmer went to mill on horseback; the wife went to market or visited distant friends on horseback; hardware and merchandise was brought to the settlers on pack-horses; the immigrant came to his new home with household goods and family packed upon horses; doctors visited the sick and preachers attended their stations astride the horse so therefore it is needless to state that the first roads were but mere trails or paths for horses and even after the wagon came into use and public roads were established they remained for years nothing more than mere tracks cut through the timber and which became almost impassable during the wet season.

Following the establishment of post-offices, post-roads were op-

ened through various parts of Ripley County and adjoining counties but the settlers in Adams Township did not enjoy this service until 1835 when, through the influence of John Sunman, of whom previous mention has been made, a post-office was established at his home about one mile west of Penntown following the opening of a post-road from Lawrenceburg to Rushville. This road, after leaving Lawrenceburg, extended northward through the villages of Guilford, Yorkville and New Alsace in Dearborn County and then turned westward in a winding trail to enter Adams Township at a point one mile east of Penntown, and continuing westward through the village to the home of Mr. Sunman where it again turned northward to wind its way across Franklin County and on to Rushville.

As a recompense for his efforts Mr. Sunman received the appointment as postmaster and his son, Robert, the position of postman or carrier. Astride a horse, which mode of transportation was later improved by the addition of a home-made cart, he made weekly trips to Lawrenceburg where mail would arrive by boat, and returned each Saturday with the community pouch, which we dare say was never heavy laden, for with postage ranging from eighteen to twenty-five cents per letter or paper, the amount being regulated by distance instead of weight and paid by the recipient, and the uncertainty of delivery often long delayed, it is very probable that friends and relatives separated by any great distance, thought often of each other but wrote very seldom.

Following Robert Sunman's enlistment in the army at the outbreak of the Mexican War in 1848, in which he made the supreme sacrifice, the postoffice was moved to Penntown and placed in charge of Christ Kober who conducted the work of the office in addition to a store and saloon business in a large frame building that stood opposite the site of the present home of John Stahley in the eastern part of the village.

About this time a second office known as the Way Post Office was established at the Willian Bower home in what is now known as the Sharps Corner vicinity, with his son, the late Rev. G. W. Bower, filling the official position of postman. The opening of the Lawrenceburg-Rushville road was soon followed by the establishment of a second highway known as the Versailles-Prookville road that traversed the eastern part of the township from north to south and

crossed the Lawrenceburg-Rushville road at Penntown.

Although these roads, as before stated, were but mere tracks cut through the forest, with no bridges to aid in the crossing of streams and numerous roots, stumps and holes made traveling difficult and often hazardous, they nevertheless were considered as a big improvement over the blazed trail.

In addition to affording suitable mail routes they also opened better ways for the marketing of farm products for which there was now an ever-increasing demand, especially by the cities in the lower Mississippi River country which were experiencing repeated shortages of foodstuffs occasioned by frequent floods that destroyed crops for in those days the protection provided by river levees was unknown. These conditions, combined with an increasing local demand for foreign and factory made merchandise, prompted Thomas Clark to establish the first mercantile business in the township in 1840 which he conducted in a large log building that was located in the northwest angle formed by the intersection of the two roads at Penntown. This was followed by the opening of other lines of business here but let us first journey to another part of the territory where in 1852 we find a wide swath being cut through the forest in a diagonal line across the township from the southeast to the northwest along which gangs of workmen were busily engaged in the construction of the first and thus far the only railroad to cross the township and on October 3 of the following year the first train, a little woodburning engine and two little wooden coaches scarcely larger than our present day bus, in charge of conductor George Tyre and engineer George Mathers, puffed and wheezed to a stop at the little "up and down" frame "depot" at Smith's Switch (Sunman) between lines of a cheering and excited people who had assembled from miles distant to witness what they no doubt considered to be the crowning event in their lives, while to many it was the realization of repeated daytime dreams that now offered them great possibilities for the future.

The building of the railroad was a stupendous task when taking into consideration the many difficulties and obstacles that confronted the workmen, for in the absence of today's labor-saving machinery and high explosives now used in construction work the building of this road had to be accomplished with pick and shovel, wheelbarrow and axe in the

calloused hands of brawny Hibernian laborers.

Following its completion the road was first known as the Lawrenceburg and Indianapolis Railway as these two cities were then the eastern and western terminals but a few years later an extension of the road gave it the name of Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Lafayette Railway. Still later, following a second extension, the name was changed to that of Cincinnati, Indianapolis, St. Louis and Chicago Railway which remained for a number of years until a third change was made to that of the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Railway which was retained until 1870 when it became known as the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway or the Big Four Route.

Let us linger for a while at the little village of Smith's Switch and note the results wrought here by the coming of the railroad.

Although Henry Ahrends had been conducting a store and huskster business for some time at his home one mile east of the village of Smith's Switch, the first man within the village to take advantage of the golden opportunities that were offered by the advent of the railroad as a great step in progress, was John Tangman, who embarked in a mercantile business in a log building previously mentioned as being located upon the present site of the Clover Farm Store building.

The same foresight which had prompted Mr. Tangman's activity also prompted his neighbor, Albert Stuart, to erect an addition to his cabin for the accommodation of railroad workmen or for any others who might desire bed and board, thus establishing within the township the first hostelry.

With the passing of time others were attracted here to embark in various business and industrial enterprises but to James Vanness, a railroad section foreman, all honor is due as being the real founder of the village, now known as Sunman, for through his efforts and financial means a part of the S. E. forty was purchased from Mr. Leffler and in April of 1856 was surveyed and platted and the lots offered for sale at such prices that many were induced to take up residence here who probably would have located elsewhere. One of the lots disposed of at that time in exchange for an old silver watch is now valued at several hundred dollars.

In April of the following year Mr. Vanness made his first addition to the village after purchasing a part of the S. W. forty from Mr. Wrede and a few months later

a second addition of lots in the N. W. forty purchased from Mr. Bleistein. A short time prior to Mr. Vanness' first investment the name of the village had been changed to that of Vanness' Switch and then to that of Leffler's Station, but following the completion of the survey it was given the name of Sunmanville as an honor to Thomas W. Sunman, then a prominent citizen of the township, a stockholder in the new railroad and an intimate friend who had been of great assistance to Mr. Vanness in his real estate ventures.

The name of Sunmanville was retained until the establishment of a post-office here in the early sixties when, for convenience in usage the "ville" was dropped thus leaving the name Sunman as it has since been recorded.

Following the work of platting the village a rapid growth began as new business and industrial interests were established. The necessity of homes and business rooms which caused an ever-increasing demand for building materials prompted Isaac Doles to locate here and establish a sawmill business which was destined to become and has since remained one of the town's leading industries. This little mill operated by Mr. Doles was of the "up and down" type and was located upon the ground now covered by the Bacon Lumber Company's mill considered to be the largest and most modern in the Central States.

The necessity of building material also prompted Jacob Stegner to establish a brick-making industry here with yard and sheds being located upon the ground to the rear of the present location of the Osburn & Trautman meat market.

Immediately to the east of this at a point now looked upon as the east end of Washington Street, a stave mill was placed in operation by Nathaniel Wright which furnished employment to a goodly number of villagers and a large pond nearby in addition to supplying water for the mill also served as an excellent "swimmin' hole" for the youngsters as well as a baptismal pool for their more pious elders.

An increasing population prompted Peter Bleistein to embark in a mercantile business, the second in the village, which he conducted in a little frame building that was located upon the site of the Schwing building now occupied by the Morton saloon and lunch room. A short time later John Hashagen, Sr., opened a third store in a little frame building that stood upon the lot now cov-



Ruins of the business center of Sunman the day after the big fire of March 23, 1905, taken from the top of a boxcar. In the foreground are the concrete pillars that formed the foundation for the railroad water tank. To the immediate left are the ruins of the E. R. Behlmer residence and store building. The brick walls across the street to the south are the ruins of the Wippel residence and saloon building. X marks point of fire's origin. The picket fence, in between two fires, escaped.



A small portion of the record crop of tomatoes that were delivered to the Naas Corp. Canning Plant at Sunman in 1948.



Looking west along Washington St. in Sunman in 1895 and taken from a point midway between today's corners of the Bank and Clover Farm store properties. From left to right are: the Brinkman Hotel also housing the Hashagen barber shop and confectionery in the doorway of which stands Mr. Hashagen with his son, Charles beside the step; the brick residence and saloon building of Fred Luhring in the doorway of which stands Henry Clemens, a paperhanger beside Mr. Luhring; the home of John Heavey and his son Emery and the large frame residence and saloon building of Henry Schuck. Others recognized are: Gus Luhring, Mrs. Luhring at the left of the group of women, John Bennett's "Topsy" and cart, J. H. Nieman, school teachers Will Ferris and John Wortman and a group of school boys. The sidewalk along the hotel is of gravel and crushed stone and is some three feet above the street level. A wooden runway leads to the walk beside the barber pole and a kerosene lamp atop its post lights the way. Wheel tracks and other evidence of horses having passed that way are plainly visible. These buildings were destroyed by fire in 1905, the ruins of which are shown on another page.

ered by the brick building, formerly the home of the Sunman Bakery and now the property of the town of Sunman awaiting to be converted into a modern home for the Volunteer Fire Department.

Although liquor was plentiful and easily obtained at almost every home the possibility of a successful business venture in the sale of alcoholic drinks nevertheless prompted Andrew Downs to open a saloon in a little one-room frame building that he erected on the corner now occupied by the Schwing garage and wherein, a short time later, the township's first tragedy occurred when Mr. Downs was killed by the discharge of a shotgun in his own hands while defending his property against an intruder who attempted to rob his money drawer.

The little frame depot, erected after the completion of the railroad, was located at a point north of the track near the present location of the west-bound mail crane. Mr. Mattox, the first agent, was succeeded by Charles Marsh and he in turn by a Mr. Sefton.

The maintenance of the railroad right of way was in charge of Thomas Garvey, the first section foreman, who was later succeeded by James Vanness and he in turn by Mike Cooney, Matt Liner and Barney Keleger.

John Whitmore was also numbered among the earliest business men here as a hotel-keeper, the business being conducted in a large frame building that adjoined the Hashagen store building on the east. Mr. Whitmore soon disposed of his business to Samuel Clark who than gave the village a fourth store.

The failure of Mr. Whitmore in his hotel venture did not, however, daunt the courage of Wash Tucker who, in addition to conducting a successful hostelry in a large two-story frame building which he erected upon the northwest corner of the principal business block and now the site of the Mack Bros. garage, also conducted a successful livery business in a large barn which stood across the street upon the present site of the business building now occupied by Al Brunsman. For a number of years Mr. Tucker operated a bus line to Brookville with which he conducted an extensive business until the completion of the White-water Railroad afforded the people a better line of transportation, and the line was discontinued.

After platting the land he had purchased here, Mr. Vanness his fellow villagers with a suitable site for a public building that might serve the community for all

purposes and in order to show their appreciation of the gift and also supply a need to themselves, the citizens of the village and the surrounding countryside, by liberal donations of money, labor and material, erected a substantial brick structure in 1858 which served the public for over forty years as the village's only House of Worship, open to all denominations, as well as a town hall open to all social gatherings and entertainments of reputable character.

Herein the first village school was taught by Hiram Close and he being followed in order by Louisa Ferris, Frank Podenhofer, Fannie Sunman, Gertrude Sunman, Taylor Hazen and Frank Horning.

Here also in 1867, the first community Christmas tree was lighted as the principal feature of an entertainment given by a Union Sunday School that had been organized some time previous with Manuel Stegner the superintendent and Miles Ashton, secretary. The entertainment was under the direction of Balser Trautman and the music for the occasion was provided by Rev. B. F. Ferris, who then was looked upon as one of the community's most accomplished fiddlers.

With business and industrial enterprises fairly well established here and the villagers busily engaged at their daily tasks, let us leave Sunman for a while and journey westward along the railroad to a point two miles distant where we find another scene of activity in a second village that had been platted in 1855 by George Miller who named the little cluster of homes, Spades, as an honor to his friend and neighbor, Jacob Spade, one of the first settlers in that vicinity. The plating of this village was in no doubt prompted by its proximity to a little log church, the home of the St. Stephens Evangelical congregation erected in 1843 following the organization of the congregation by Rev. Wier who served as pastor for only a brief time when he was succeeded by the Rev. Frederick Franke whose long term of service which extended over a period of forty-seven years at this church established a record for ministerial work in Adams Township which has not yet and probably never will be equalled. Following the death of Rev. Franke in 1890 the vacancy was filled by Rev. Weise under whose pastorate the present parsonage was erected.

In 1897 the log building, remodeled at various times, was replaced by a substantial frame structure during the pastorate of Rev. Paul Gaab, successor to Rev.

Weise. During succeeding years the congregation was served by Revs. Edlich, Schipman, Ahrends, Firnschild, Born, Bendrat, Arndt, and Rev. Barthelmas under whose pastorate the present church edifice was erected in 1924 following the destruction by fire of the old building. During late years there has been no resident pastor as the church has been served by ministers from neighboring churches.

Returning to the village of Spades we find that one of the first buildings erected here was built by Frederick Talkenburg, a building that today is a part of the frame structure now occupied as a residence by the Quirin Ertel family.

Mr. Talkenburg, soon after location, became established in a clothing business and gained for himself the name of "Peddler Fritz" as he went about the country selling his goods from a two-wheeled cart and it was from him that many of the inhabitants of Adams Township at that time purchased their first store clothes.

Like the inhabitants of their neighboring villages the residents of Spades were also awake to the possibilities offered by the coming of the railroad for soon after its completion, Frank Klein established a mercantile and saloon business in a large brick and frame residence and store building now occupied by Quirin Ertel as previously mentioned. In this building Mr. Klein also conducted the first village postoffice.

A short time later Michael Smith opened the second store in the village in a little frame building that stood upon the present site of the John Gunter property, but this business was soon disposed of to George Mitchell who in addition to his own business interests was also in the employ of the railroad company as the first station agent at Spades. One mile to the south of the village upon the present site of the Anthony Gindling home, a store was opened by Henry Kassens who conducted a successful business there for many years.

Although a combination sawmill and gristmill, the former of the old "up and down" type, was being operated on the John Sunman farm one mile to the north of Spades the great demand for building material prompted George Miller and Hiram Mouse to establish a like industry within the village upon the ground which in later years was the site of one of the warehouses of the Enterprise Bracket Company of which mention will be made later. This sawmill was later known as the Frenzel mill.

Resuming our journey westward along the railroad we come to a point near the western boundary of the township where we find another village known as Springfield that had been settled in 1840 by a number of German Catholic families who attended church at Oldenburg and St. Nicholas until 1856 when the organization of St. Anthony's congregation was effected and the first church, a stone structure, was erected. The church was first attended from Oldenburg by Fr. Rudolf, assisted by Frs. Weber, Weisenberger and Doyle until the completion of the present brick parsonage in 1866 when Fr. Weinzappel arrived as the first resident priest. In 1861 a substantial parochial school building was erected to replace a log structure that was built in 1855 and as time advanced with each succeeding year adding to the membership of the congregation the little stone church was replaced by the present brick building erected in 1885 during the pastorate of Rev. Fr. Seiler.

In 1917 the passing of time compelled another change in school buildings and under the pastorate of Fr. Michael Wagner, who assumed charge of the church in 1914 the substantial brick building was built. After years of excellent service to his people Fr. Wagner was succeeded by Fr. Uhrig and he in turn by Fr. Schaad, the present pastor.

Although Springfield was quite a village for a number of years prior, the land was not platted until 1858 when it was laid out by D. J. Wright who had the name changed to that of Morris but as to why it was so named we were unable to learn unless named in honor of George Morris, a prominent resident of the vicinity who later became one of Adam's Township's company of soldiers at the outbreak of the Civil War.

For some years after the completion of the railroad, Morris was an important station where the company directors often assembled for important meetings. The company interests here were in charge of John McChristian who also conducted an eating room at which all trains stopped sufficient time to permit passengers and crew to dine.

Like the citizens of Penntown and of Sunman, the people of Morris were also awake to the possibilities of the future and among the first to take advantage of the opportunity to establish himself in business was Benjamin Hulzman who gave his neighbors their first general store and also served as the first postmaster of the village. Other lines of business soon followed but as we were unable to learn anything definite concerning

business activities here during the decade of the fifties, let us leave this vicinity for a time and return to the village of Sunman where the first improvement of any note is a large brick and frame residence and store building that was erected in 1860 by Herman Nieman who had purchased the property and business interests of John Tangman. The coming of the Nieman family might be considered as being one of the village's most valuable assets of the earlier years for in addition to the extensive mercantile business they conducted throughout an unbroken period of two score years they also established other business interests that were of material aid to the village growth.

Although no other improvements of special mention were being made at this time the village nevertheless was gradually expanding in size as new homes were erected to shelter an ever increasing population, which, with the many other scenes of a progressive activity were bringing joy to the hearts of those who were now beholding their dreams of earlier days fast forming into realities when, war, with its carnage and its bloodshed, its heartaches and sorrows, descended upon them like rain from an overcast sky.

Its mutterings had been heard for several years but they had been but little heeded. Practically not a man in the township knew anything concerning the manual of arms or the duties of a soldier's life, but this weakness was overcome to a very great extent by an unlimited amount of patriotism backed by indomitable courage that brought forth eighty of its stalwart sons in response to President Lincoln's call. These men were organized into a company of volunteer infantry with George Morris as captain and George Oldt, Philip Seelinger, Levi Hazen and Thomas Somerville his lieutenants.

In August of 1862, Company G, of the 83rd Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, was mustered into service as its members stood in line along the roadside opposite the home of Frederick Schmall, now the property of the writer and from where, with shoulders erect and squared, but dampened by the falling tears of loved ones and friends bidding them goodbye, they marched unflinchingly forth to take part in the great drama to be enacted.

Arriving in the Southland the company was assigned to duty in the vicinity of Vicksburg and took active part in all of the operations around that place. It also participated in the storming and capture of Arkansas Post; in the siege and

capture of Jackson; in the great victory at Missionary Ridge; in the assault and capture of Fort McAllister; in the engagements at Columbia and Bentonville; in the battles of Resaca, Dallas, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain and Jonesboro and in the repulse of the enemy near Atlanta to finally accompany Sherman in that memorable march to the sea that led to the song "Marching Through Georgia."

At the conclusion of active military operations the company was moved to Washington, D. C., where it formed a part of the long marching column in the Grand Review and in June of 1865 was mustered out after a gallant service of three years, of which two hundred and twenty days had been spent under fire, the remaining time being spent in traveling a total distance of sixty-three hundred miles, of which eighteen hundred were on steamboat, five hundred by rail and four thousand on foot.

The homecoming scenes were fraught with excitement and deep feeling for the battle-scarred thinned ranks of Company G. revealed that all had not returned for twenty-two had been left beneath southern soil where they had fallen in battle or had succumbed to disease, a death, while not so dramatic, was nevertheless just as honorable. They who were permitted to return did so in much the same manner as though it had been merely a matter of a "day off" from business by quietly resuming their places in the everyday walks of life. Today the roster of Company G. has no name of a surviving member as all have long since answered the "last call." The last to answer was William Drockelman of the Adams Church community whose death occurred in 1937 at the age of 98 years.

Although the citizens at home were far from the din and scenes of battle the results, nevertheless, were keenly felt here in many ways. During the summer of '63 the many stirring events daily occurring in the shot-torn states of the South were of such character as to bring encouragement to the people of the North, but on July 12th of this notable year a real thrill of war was brought into their midst when the news reached them that General John Morgan with two thousand Confederate troopers was approaching the village of Sunman from the south, but the fears of a raid were soon allayed however, when the advancing column continued its course eastward on the Harrison road two miles to the south instead of heading northward on the Versailles-Brookville road which would have

led the column directly through the village.

Aside from the destruction of a part of the railroad track and telegraph lines at the Boardman crossing, midway between the villages of Sunman and Spades, no other depredations were committed within the township although inhabitants living along the line of march suffered severely in loss of live stock and produce in order to aid them in their hurried advance for word had reached Morgan that a pursuing force was close upon his heels and the same was true for hardly had the rear guard of the raiders passed from view at the Ferris Schoolhouse, two miles south of Sunman than the advance guard of a pursuing force of Union soldiers under the command of General Hobson, appeared.

Captain Gavin, in command of a force of home guards from Decatur and Shelby Counties, was also sent by rail, under orders to intercept, if possible, the advance of the raiders at Lawrenceburg and after being permitted to pass safely through the lines of the enemy at Weisburg where Morgan held complete control of the situation, the train proceeded to Lawrenceburg in obedience to orders without a shot having been fired, even though the Union men had been at the mercy of the raiders who could have destroyed the entire force of Gavin had they so desired.

A few days later, Gen. Lew Wallace with a regiment of Union soldiers, arrived here from Indianapolis, but finding that further pursuit was useless the regiment went into camp in the wood that covered that part of town north of the road that is now known as Eastern Ave. where it remained for a week, thus giving the villagers an opportunity of becoming acquainted with real army life. Although such could be expected from an army passing through hostile country, the depredations committed by the Morgan raiders were but mere petty larcenies in comparison to the "help yourself" method and wanton waste of food stuffs that were practiced by the men under Gen. Wallace.

The visit of Morgan and his men to this vicinity was attended by many incidents both amusing and tragic, for as soon as word reached here of his near approach the home guards throughout the township, armed to the teeth with all kinds of death-dealing weapons, were quickly mobilized and stationed at advantageous places along the road leading into Sunman from the south where they hoped to check any advance of the enemy upon the village.

As darkness fell and the watchers became keenly alert to all moving objects, the halt command, "Who Goes There?" the challenge of a guard to an approaching form was promptly answered by a familiar voice, "Dis vas — from behind Sonmanswill, vot trifles dose two vite horses. You tink I bin a tam Rabel"? Although the countersign was in error the response nevertheless was accepted and the neighbor permitted to join the group.

Another incident, devoid of all comedy however, occurred during the early evening when Frank Robinson, a young soldier enjoying a brief furlough with home folks, was captured by a party of Morgan scouts while he was returning from a visit at the home of a friend. Sensing his danger however in time to discard his arms and ammunition without his movements being seen by his captors, the act no doubt saved his life, for, dressed in the uniform of a Union soldier he was at first suspected of being a spy, but finding him to be unarmed and seemingly satisfied with his straight-forward answers to their questions, they finally released him without offering any apologies for their act which of course was not in order but perfectly satisfactory to Mr. Robinson.

Before passing from this period of the early sixties we wish to make mention of the Cold New Years Day of 1861, when the thermometer registered a drop of one hundred degrees in less than twenty-four hours. The last day of the old year had dawned cloudy and warm with a maximum temperature of seventy degrees. A light drizzling rain that fell until after midday was changed into a blizzard of snow and sleet by a sudden veering of the wind to the northwest that caused a rapid drop in temperature which continued to fall at an alarming rate until the dawn of the New Year 1861 when thirty degrees below zero had been especially in homes where the fuel reached. Suffering was intense, supply made out-of-door trips necessary. Frozen feet, hands and faces were suffered in many homes and the loss of poultry and live stock was great.

Before beginning a description of Sunman as seen in 1873 by Dr. Edwin B. Vincent, the first graduate physician to locate in the village, it may be interesting to know something of the doctoring of the earlier years when only a few of the practitioners in the rural districts had received any medical education except as secured from study in the office of an older physician where a student would be taught the concoction of a few

remedies and by accompanying his preceptor upon visits to patients where he would get a fair idea of the treatment of the common diseases prevalent in the locality.

The epidemics that proved fatal to many then were not so well understood as they are now and some were inclined to view them as special dispensations of Divine Providence as a punishment for sin to which the afflicted must submit while others were willing to combat disease with only a limited amount of medical knowledge at their command.

Quarantines were not thought of and the causes for the spreading of contagious diseases were little known. Owing to the swampy condition of the country here, fevers of various forms were the most common ailments, especially malaria and intermittent fevers which, although seldom fatal, often gave rise to other diseases that were attended with danger.

The nature of the disease mattered not for be it colic or smallpox, lumbago or spotted fever, the first medicine to be administered was calomel, followed by a liberal dose of castor oil or rhubarb as a first aid treatment and then if results were not satisfactory the bleeding or cupping method of cure was resorted to with sometimes a severe blistering thrown in for good measure.

The pioneers of the medical profession were generally men of high standing and worthy of a place in history, for it required a man thoroughly imbued with the calling of his profession to respond to the calls of physical distress which sometimes necessitated horseback rides of many miles over almost impassable roads, through forests infested with wild animals, through midnight blackness or the glare of a noonday sun, only to arrive at some isolated cabin where probably a slight attack of colic or maybe a troublesome tooth awaited his attention. No call from the people in the far-flung area went unanswered and no blizzard was too severe for his devotion when there was a life in danger. Even if his fees were in doubt which were generally twenty-five cents per mile, half of which would be received in provender for his horse and produce for his family, he went his way in the trackless wilderness led only by his ideals which were not merely pretty things to talk about but were the motives of his character.

If, as a doctor, he felt under obligations to serve when he was called, the distance didn't matter, the difficulties of the journey did not matter, the conditions of the weather didn't matter, for the

humble life that needed to be served was alone of consequence. It never occurred to him to feel heroic about his work for this was the way of life and he knew no other.

Among the early practitioners of this area were: Dr. Preston at Sunman, Drs. Bunker, Scott, Fisk and Schlosser at Penntown, Dr. Fermier at Hubbles and Dr. Hoel at Clinton.

The burial of the dead was also conducted in a manner befitting those early years. During the earliest days the corpse was placed upon a bier of poles and borne to the place of burial upon the shoulders of four men. At the grave the remains would be placed in a casket of rough boards which oftentimes had to be made after the arrival of the cortège, the sound of the hammer being muffled by covering the nail heads or wooden pegs with several thicknesses of buckskin. This manner of burial was soon improved, however, by the use of a joltwagon and later a spring-wagon while coffins were also much improved in workmanship when in later years they were constructed by the skilled hands of Frederick Peters Sr. who resided at Penntown and by Henry Brandt who conducted a wood-working shop at his home a short distance east of Sunman, and later the home of his grandson, Mehl Kassen and family.

Before entering upon the next decade, we will first make mention of an event which occurred during the last year of the sixties in which, had not a kind act of Providence interfered, would no doubt have caused those coffin makers to have worked overtime when the bursting of a cannon endangered the lives of many citizens. The cannon, four or five feet in length and mounted on a home-made gun carriage, had been purchased by subscription soon after the close of the Civil War and was brought forth and fired upon every occasion, but on this particular day, Fourth of July, 1869, it was loaded with an extra charge of powder and then filled to the muzzle with rocks and brick bats. Lashed firmly to an elm tree that stood upon the ground now covered by the main building of the Naas Corp. cannery, the fuse was lighted. A blinding flash and a deafening roar followed and when the smoke lifted it was found that the heavy load had been discharged from both ends and the middle with the deadly missiles flying in all directions without touching any of the many bystanders who were assembled near. As to how they escaped no one knows but it is a

certainty that their luck cannot be attributed to anything but Divine power.

Advancing time to 1873, let us view Sunman as it appeared to Dr. Edwin B. Vincent, the first graduate physician to locate here and who arrived within a few months after completing the course of study at the Ohio Medical College in Cincinnati.

As a whole we find a village of perhaps forty or fifty buildings scattered over a quarter section of swamp land, the home of countless frogs, crawfish and mosquitoes and that it really was swamp land is evident by an incident that occurred during the annual springtime when William Stuart rode a log that floated easily along the railroad right-of-way from Spades to Sunman.

Dividing the village into four parts were two public roads, the Versailles Brookville road, later called the Penntown road, extending north and south and the Hubbles road extending east and west but unlike today however, the road did not end at the railroad crossing but continued in a straight line through the village to connect with what is now the St. Nicholas road.

Dividing the area into two triangular parts was the then called, Indianapolis and Cincinnati Railroad which, with the two highways were and have since remained the only lanes open to the traveling public.

Standing at the intersection of these three roads and looking north we see to our immediate left the ruins of a large hay barn that Herman Nieman had lost by fire a short time prior to the doctor's arrival, but which was soon replaced by another large frame building wherein Fred Peters Jr. later became established in a hay, grain and feed business that today after many years is owned and conducted by Roy Nedderman.

Several hundred feet to the north of these ruins was a lone dwelling, the home of Frank Bauer and family, and which after nearly seventy-five was recently razed to make way for a new modern business building erected by the Selke Brothers who are embarking in an implement business. This constituted all of the improvements that had been made in that section of the village lying north of the railroad and west of the Penntown road.

Without changing our position we see to our immediate right and located upon the site now occupied by the Mrs. Emma Nieman residence, the frame dwelling of John Schlicht who then was conducting

a saloon business in another part of the village.

Some distance to the north and without change in the site of its present location was a two-burr flour and grist mill that was then being operated by William Bennett and John Holsmeier, but who a short time later disposed of their interests to Herman Nieman. Although the building has undergone a number of architectural changes since its erection in 1867 practically all of the timbers used in the first construction are still in service and in good state of preservation. That an unusual amount of progressive spirit must have prevailed among the citizens of that day is quite evident by the fact that not only was the site for the mill but much of the labor and the materials used in its construction were donated by the villagers and their neighboring farm folk who no doubt sacrificed many needs at home in order to supply this greater need to the community.

Like the sawmill the grist mill was also destined to remain for many succeeding years and the regularity blast of its whistle served as an excellent time piece for the inhabitants within range of its voice. Following its acquisition by Herman Nieman the business descended to the third generation of this well-known family when taken over by Estal Nieman who assumed its management in 1918 following the death of his father, Christ Nieman. In 1935 the property and business was purchased by John Weber Sr. of Brookville who, after a few years of operation discontinued the business and dismantled the mill machinery. The property was later purchased by the Farm Bureau of which mention will be made later.

Immediately to the north of the mill was the residence of the miller and which also stands today practically unchanged in appearance as the home of Mrs. Margaret Endres.

Adjoining this property on the north was the frame dwelling of the Joseph Federle family now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wuelner while still farther to the north, upon the property, now the Cassius Lauber home, was the log cabin home of Barzillia Stuart.

Shifting our position on the crossing so as to face east along the Hubbles road, now Eastern Ave., we find to our immediate left upon the property now the home of the Lewis Neukam family, a large cattle barn belonging to Herman Nieman, which a few years later was also destroyed by



Sunman's first schoolhouse that stood in the west end of town upon the present site of the Leonard Beer home. Moved to a new location near the center of town to make way for a new brick building in 1881, it is today the home of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Vail.



Old Bucket Factory at Morris erected in 1875. Long since unused but still standing.



Residence and store building at Spades where August Franke conducted a mercantile business for many years.



Morris Schoolhouse erected in 1870. Discontinued for school purposes in 1943.



Home of the Morris Volunteer Fire Co. erected in 1878 soon after the organization of the company. Still standing.

fire in which a large number of cattle were burned.

In the distance, to our left, and almost screened from view by the branches of giant forest trees, was a lone dwelling, the home of Frederick Kammeyer, which like the Bauer home, previously mentioned, is in good condition as the home today of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Behlmer.

Crossing the Hubbles road to the property now the home of Selma Nordloh was a little frame dwelling, the home of Mrs. Sallie Jenner, while a few hundred feet to the west of this was the home of Mrs. John Engle and daughter Caroline which today is the home of the Clarence Brinkman family.

Farther to the west was another frame dwelling, the home of Dan Keleger, a railroad section foreman, and with but slight change in appearance and in a good state of preservation, it is the home of Harry Bruns.

With another shifting in our position at the crossing so as to face the southeast in a direct line along the railroad, we see to our immediate left near the point of the triangle formed by the intersection of the railroad and highway, a little frame building wherein Henry Hoff was conducting a cobbler business while adjoining this on the east was the little frame depot bearing the sign "Railway Ticket Office", which however, had been advanced for this purpose a short time before the doctor's arrival when a new building of which mention will be made later, was erected.

Upon the site of the present brick building formerly known as the Sunman Bakery, and facing the railroad, was the frame residence and store building belonging to Mrs. Clara Hashagen, while adjoining this on the east was another frame residence and business building belonging to Samuel Clark which later became an eventful factor in the lives of Dr. and Mrs. Vincent for here it was that they commenced their journey of wedded companionship that extended over a period of fifty-six years until the death of the doctor in 1930. Here it was that they rejoiced at the arrival of their first-born, a daughter, now Mrs. Pearl Camden, who when but a few days old was carried with the mother to a place of safety when their home was threatened by a fire that destroyed the Hashagen building.

Several hundred feet to the east of the Clark building was a large frame warehouse wherein Gideon Hazen was conducting a business in the sale of building materials while nearby on the ground now covered by the Red Men's Hall,

formerly the Odd Fellows building, was an old railroad turntable that had not been in use for some time.

Near the village outskirts and also facing the railroad was a little frame dwelling, the home of the William Styart that today is the site of the Henry Creech residence.

Last but far from being the least on the site now covered by the home occupied by Mr. and Mrs. James Dawdy, was a tumble-down log cabin that had been the home of Mrs. Sarah Jennings, the village weaver, but which, after becoming unfit for shelter, was being used as a fine backstop for Mike Benz who occasionally missed one of Doc Vincent's wild pitches during the many hot games that were played there. Others included in the membership of that early baseball team were: George Ashton, Mose Torrence, John Follick, Allen Follick, Will Tangman, Wes Tangman, James Mathers and Will Hazen. This however, was not the community's first ball club as a team organized in 1868 and known as the Sunman Gray Stockings, was well known over a large area of country for its ability to win. Included the membership were: Miles Ashton, George Ashton, William Bower, John McNamara, Taylor Hazen, William Hazen, John Sunman, John Mendel, Henry Clingworth, Harry Wiggins and James Carlin. All have long since arrived at the Home Plate of Life and been called "Out" by the Great Umpire in Chief whose decisions are never questioned nor reversed. Early ball playing was much as it is today only in the manner of pitching as the form of delivery of the ball to the batsman then in use was the "pitched ball" similar to the present day pitching in soft ball, and then later the pitcher delivered what was known as the "jerked ball". The players used no gloves nor was the catcher protected by any mask, shin-guards and breast-plate.

The naming of the team was governed by the color of the stockings worn, a custom that is followed today to some extent. Although baseball was a great sport and a strictly Sunday diversion there was also much interest displayed in horseshoe and marbles and it was no uncommon sight to see men well along in years giving exhibitions of their ability at placing a "ringer" or making a crack shot without "knuckling down" or "hunching" while onlookers enjoyed the daily games usually played at the rear of the depot building.

With the description of the north half of the village completed, let us now view that part lying south of the railroad.

Still facing the southeast in a direct line along the railroad we see a row of frame dwellings fronting the right-of-way, all of which, with the exception of two, are still serving as homes and with but slight changes in architectural appearances. To our immediate right on the site now covered by the Morton saloon and lunch room we see a frame building wherein Amaza Hazen is conducting a hotel business while immediately to the east of this is a large frame building, the home and shoeshop of George Wuest. This building, unchanged in appearance today, is the Dreyer tenant house. Still farther to the east and across a short street from the Wuest house was a little frame cottage, the home of Mrs. Louisa Torrence. Long since removed, the site is a vacant lot belonging to the Masonic property. Adjoining this on the east upon the site now covered by the Joe Gray home was the little frame dwelling of Anthony Siefert, the village painter, to which home Dr. Vincent made his first professional visit as the village doctor when Mr. Siefert's little daughter was stricken with cholera infantum. The recovery of the child from this, the most serious of infantile diseases, was a great victory for the doctor but his next battle against Death ended in defeat when he was called to attend a like case, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Tangman, next door neighbors to the east, whose home today is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Emory Heavy. Within a few feet of the Tangman home and in fact so close as to appear as one building, was the home of Elmer Alden, now the home of the Marlin Meyers family. The last in this line of buildings was a little frame cottage which belonged to the Stephens sisters.

Reversing our position on the crossing so as to face the northwest in a direct line with the railroad we see to our immediate left the large brick and frame residence and store building which was destroyed by fire in 1905 and replaced by what is now the Clover Farm Store building.

To the west of this and appearing today as it was then, is the railroad depot in charge of George Ashton who, in 1868 had succeeded his brother, Miles Ashton as the company agent, telegrapher and village postmaster. As to who were the first night telegraph operators here could not be learned but among the first was Theodore Kern, a young soldier who took over the position in 1865 immediately upon his return from service in the Union Army and soon after assuming the responsibilities of

the office he had the thrill, as we might term it, of presenting to the villagers the first news of the assassination of President Lincoln, a report which the citizens were loth to accept as the truth until verified on the following morning by newspaper accounts of the tragedy.

A short distance to the west of the depot was a large frame building, the residence, saloon and dance hall of John Martz which later was destroyed by fire and then replaced by the brick building that today is an apartment building owned by Henry Rose. In the far distance and standing upon ground now covered by the Standard Oil building was a vacant, two story frame dwelling, the former home of Isaac Doles, which after his removal, was looked upon and shunned by many of the villagers as a haunted house. The building stood alone and untenanted for several years except by the ghosts who held the respect of their flesh and blood neighbors to the extent that they were left strictly to themselves until a careful investigation by some of the more daring resulted in the discovery that the ghostly voices were none other than weird sounds produced by the rubbing together of two loose floor boards in the upper story that were caused to move by the blowing of the wind, but nevertheless the scare had produced a lasting effect and when the offer of free rent failed to lure a tenant the building was torn down.

Again changing our position so as to face directly south along what is now Meridian Street, we see to our immediate left the little one room saloon building belonging to John Schlicht that stood upon the southwest corner of the lot now occupied by the John Schwing Garage building. Occupying the ground now covered by the Hoff Hotel was a one story frame building, the residence and cigar shop of Charles Stephens who had the distinction of bringing into the village the first factory-made buggy, a vehicle of the stream-fording model which cost its owner a sum equivalent to the price of some of our present day automobiles.

Adjoining the Stephens property on the east and located upon the present site of the Elizabeth Cowles residence was the little frame home of Nate Hazen which had previously been occupied by Lewis Huber as a residence and tinshop and later by Herman Windmiller who disposed of the tinning business and the little shoproom was then used as a public school room. In later years it was moved to a new location where it was used for a number of years for a telephone

exchange room and today is being used as a business room by the McCool Brothers.

Still farther to the east across an alley from the Windmiller property was the log cabin home of the Henry Hendrixson family.

To the south of the Stephens cigar shop along what is now Meridian Street and located upon the site now covered by the Gilbert Webster business building, was the little brick home of Balsar Trautman surrounded by a large vegetable garden and vineyard while upon the southwest corner of this property was a long frame shop building wherein Mr. Trautman was engaged in a wagon making business. Adjoining this property on the south was a large frame shop building in which John Felix and Thomas Lizzett were conducting a blacksmithing and wagon making business. Through succeeding years this property made a number of changes in ownership and was destroyed by fire in 1935. Next to the south was a large substantial residence, the home of the Gideon Hazen family. Mr. Hazen, in addition to conducting a building material business as previously mentioned, was also dealing in fertilizer and in the Oliver Chilled Plows, the first factory-made plows to be brought into this vicinity. The residence today, unchanged in appearance and in the best state of preservation, is the home of Mr. Hazen's three grandchildren.

In the distance upon the ground now covered by the Arvey Webster residence was the little frame dwelling of John Leffler, the village barber whose shop was located at one end of the Schlicht saloon room, while to the rear of the Leffler home and upon the present site of the home occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Murray Thornburg, was a little cottage home of the Henry Carel family.

Returning now to the center of the village or to that section known as the main business block we see on the northeast corner now occupied by the Peoples Bank & Trust Company building, a one-story frame structure, the residence, furniture store and undertaking establishment of Cordt Bruns who brought into the vicinity the first factory-made coffins and the first hearse.

At the northwest corner upon the present site of the Mack Bros. garage is a large two-story frame building erected by Wash Tucker as was previously mentioned and later purchased by Jacob Stegner who was conducting a saloon business at the time but who disposed of the property and business in 1874 to Henry Schuck, who for

many years was one of the town's leading saloonists from which business he retired to accept the appointment as postmaster after the election of Benjamin Harrison to the presidency of the United States.

At the southwest corner upon the property now owned by James Scheivley was the little frame dwelling of Miles Ashton who after retirement from railroad work had become interested in poultry raising and the corner property other than the space occupied by the home was covered by enclosures and coops to accomodate the different breeds that he introduced here and among which were the Plymouth Rocks, Buff Cochins, Bantams and a breed of game chicken.

Adjoining this property on the east was the little frame cottage of Nate Hazen Sr. which today, in the best of condition, is the home of the Nate Hillman family.

Lastly at the southeast corner now covered by the Beer Bros. store building, was a little frame shop building wherein during earlier years John Hoffrider, August Busch, Robert Uter, William Gutapfel and George Bennett had each in turn conducted a blacksmithing business. The remainder of the ground in the block was covered by a vineyard belonging to Balsar Trautman who in addition to being a good wheel-wright was also adept at growing fruit and

Crossing to the south of what is now Vine Street we find at the corner now covered by the Schene Drug Store building the frame home of John Felix, the village blacksmith, which after being moved to another site a few feet to the south is today the home of the Stephens family.

Adjoining this property on the south was the brick church or community building of which mention has been made and which at the time in 1873 was being used for church services by several denominations. The building however, had been abandoned for public school purposes after the erection of a school building in another part of the village of which mention will be made later.

On the southern outskirts of the village was the home of Frederick Schmall who had but recently purchased the property from Henry Behlmer, a wheel-wright who carried on his work in a shop that stood upon the northeast corner of the property now the home of the writer of this history and here also in the old home of Mr. Behlmer, that still stands upon the Winfred Kemp property, this writer was born some ten years after the coming of Dr. Vincent.

Returning to the Felix home at the corner we find several hundred feet to the west and on the south side of the street, a little brick dwelling, the home of Anthony Wolter who was conducting a barber business in the front living room of his home. Adjoining this property at the rear was a little frame cottage, the home of the Rudolph Nieman family. These two houses today but slightly changed in appearance and owned and occupied respectively by Joseph Kelley and Arthur Theobald are looked upon as the town's oldest landmarks.

It was in the Wolter home that a lightning bolt played a freakish trick during a brief summer shower when it entered the open front door of the home, tore down a bed upon which a babe was asleep, tore a pair of shoes to pieces and then passed out of the open back door without awaking the infant as it lay on a feather bed.

To the west of the Wolter dwelling, the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clifton, another landmark of those early days, was then the home of Andy Hebel who was a foreman of a brickmaking industry that was being operated by Herman Nieman and Herman Dreyer Sr. upon the ground now covered by the Naas Corp. buildings. At the extreme western part of the village upon the present site of the home now occupied by Mrs. Pearl Camden and Mrs. Blanche Gilchrist was the residence of Jacob Meyer, a cooper, whose little frame shop still stands on the premises.

Opposite this home upon the property now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Beer, was a little frame school building wherein the youth of the village were taught by Will Hazen followed in turn by Frank Whitehead, Clint Ward and Mr. and Mrs. George Tyrrell until 1881 when the erection of a substantial brick structure caused its abandonment and removal to another location where today it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Vail.

Lastly, upon the ground now owned by John Riehle which was formerly the R. C. Robinson property, was a brick and tile yard that was then being operated by a company composed of William Smith, Elmore Saltmarsh and James Stevenson that had been organized in 1870 but which, four years later was acquired by Mr. Smith who assumed control of the business which he then had moved to a new location near the railroad and upon the ground now covered by the Bacon Lumber Company mill where he then increased his industrial interest by the building and equipping of a sawmill. This

combined industry remained here for many years and the greater number of the older brick buildings in Sunman were made these home town products. Following the death of Mr. Smith in 1887 the business was carried on for a number of years by his son, Morris, who finally ceased the manufacture of brick and tile and then disposed of the sawmill interests to Benjamin Kellogg.

Thus has been completed a fair description of Sunman as it appeared in 1873 but as the business directory did not include some who had disposed of business interests here prior to that time we feel that mention should be made of them. Among former merchants was Harrison Ferris, who conducted a mercantile business in the building which was purchased by Cordt Bruns about whom mention has been made. Casper Miller conducted a cobbler shop in the Amaza Hazen property, a tinning business conducted by Daniel Stegner and later purchased by Radley Wilson was carried on in a building that was located on the present site of the John J. Hoff residence. Adam Mittart, a cigar maker and Henry Mack, his successor, conducted a shop in the Hashagen building and Ira Struble and Michael Fritsch had each conducted a blacksmithing business in the shop that was later purchased by John Felix, as previously mentioned.

Before passing on from this period of time embracing the decade of the seventies, let us first note the steady progress that was being made in many ways. With a seemingly inexhaustible supply of an excellent quality of timber is, therefore, to be quite well understood that many of the inhabitants would be engaged in some form of woodworking industry and the same was true for in addition to those employed in sawmill work there were others who were engaged in the cutting of stave and saddle-tree timber, while still others devoted their time to the cutting of cross-ties and cord-wood for the railroad company for coal burning engines were not installed until some time later.

The brick and tile works also gave employment to many which made this a village of an industrious and a progressive people. The farming community was also imbued with the spirit of progress with its inhabitants ready at all times to grasp at anything that might have a tendency to improve agricultural conditions. One of the first moves to be made for the advancement of this work was the organization in 1868 of a society known as the Grange which held

meetings in the John Martz dance hall until 1870 when a change was made to a building on the Elmore Saltmarsh farm one mile to the southwest of the village.

This was followed in 1871 by the organization of the Adams Township Farmers' Club with John Bennett as president and T. W. W. Sunman the secretary. No treasurer was needed for with fifteen members paying an annual dues of ten cents we dare say that even with no delinquents the services common to this office could easily be dispensed with. Monthly meetings were held to discuss questions pertaining to farming and to report upon the experiments and tests that each member would make for their clubs organized in various parts of Indiana and in other states. These clubs, in a true sense, were experimental stations where seeds and plants were exchanged and tried out until those best adapted to each particular area were found and selected.

These clubs not only stimulated the farmer to strive for better crops but they also accomplished much in the introduction of better breeds of livestock and of labor-saving machinery that was then being placed within their reach by inventive minds. The sickle, the scythe and the cradle were being cast aside for the reaper, the dropper and finally the binder, each of which was first brought here and used by Herman Nieman while John Scheele was the first to use the self-raking reaper.

Even though the people were afraid, of the old spark-shooting chaff-piling threshing outfit that was brought into the community by Jacob Mendel, they nevertheless accepted it as a great improvement over the old flail and tramping methods of threshing with the result that the flail was soon consigned to a nail beside the sickle and the cradle to be brought forth by later generations as relics of those early years.

The Oliver Chilled plow introduced by Gideon Hazen was soon followed by other makes of plows. The long-nosed, long-bristled swine soon became extinct after the advent of improved breeds, the Berkshires being brought in by John Whitehead, the Chester Whites by John Bennett, the Jersey Reds by Amaza Hazen and the Poland China by York Alden who also introduced the first Jersey cattle with Henry Roepke following a short time later with the Shorthorns.

The ever-increasing demand for good horses prompted Jacob Schneider to purchase the first Norman stallion to be brought into the township while to T. W. W. Sunman is given the distinction of

introducing the first thoroughbred sheep, the Oxford Downs which he had imported from England.

Pure-bred poultry also received attention with John Bennett ranking foremost as a fancier and breeder of the White Face Black Spanish chickens in which he became widely known and in time shipped chickens and eggs to all parts of the United States and to several foreign countries. The first purebred Shepherd dog to find a home in Adams Township was owned by Mr. Bennett.

The Plymouth Rocks, Buff Cochins and Bantams were brought here by Miles Ashton while to York Alden is given the credit of introducing the Brahmans and the first Pekin ducks.

Not desiring to be outclassed by the men, the good housewives of that day were also striving to keep abreast of the times and the method for preserving fruit for winter use by drying was giving way to the canning process and in particular in the canning of berries.

The first to attempt the preserving of fruit by canning was Mrs. Thomas Slack who canned a quantity of blackberries and one of her neighbors, the writer's mother, who had been favored with a sample when a can was opened to supply a delicacy for the Christmas dinner, described the contents as being of a very dark purple mass, soft as mush and all but appealing to one's appetite.

Her next experiment was an attempt at making sorghum molasses from cane that was then being raised in small patches as a curiosity. There being no mill for grinding it, the stalk was first peeled, then cut into small pieces and boiled, strained and again boiled in an iron kettle until a thick, black liquid resembling tar was obtained. A short time later however, cane mills were brought into use, which, with the large iron kettles that were used for boiling the juice finally produced a syrup that was not unlike that of today.

A marked improvement in the equipment and operation of industrial enterprises must also be noted for the old "up and down" type of sawmill was being replaced by the circle mill the first of which was placed in operation in 1868 by John Clark upon the southwest corner of what is now the William Rohls farm one mile to the southwest of Sunman.

About one and one-half miles to the northeast of Sunman upon the farm of the late Anthony Schneider, was the Schneider brewery wherein for many years the father, Jacob Schneider, made an ex-

cellent brew of common beer that found a ready sale throughout the country and also prompted many that continued to be a profitable farmers to engage in hop-raising crop for some years after the brewery was dismantled.

Hog raising had also become quite an extensive and profitable branch of farm industry, but unlike today however, the hogs were not taken to market on foot but were dressed and shipped by Herman Nieman, whose slaughter yard each winter presented a very busy scene when carloads of the porkers were slaughtered and shipped to Cincinnati.

Like Sunman, the other villages of the township were increasing in size and in population as new industries and new business enterprises found sites for location.

Although Spades and Penntown had not as yet been selected as locations for manufacturing enterprises aside from the Miller and Mouse sawmill at Spades and a flour and grist mill that had been operated at Penntown for several years by Guss Neidheimer, the absence of industries however, was well supplied by an extensive marketing business that was conducted by several merchants at each place.

Among the merchants at Penntown during the decades of the sixties and seventies were: William Chenny whose store building was located opposite the present home of John Stahley; Christ Kober who has already been mentioned as being in a store and saloon business and John Dietz who conducted a store, saloon and dance hall in a large frame building all of which he disposed of to Joseph Six who, a few years later sold out to John Clingworth and he a short time later to George Selner. In after years the property and business was acquired by Henry Clingworth and later by Philip Schumacher who remained there until soon after the turn of the century when the property again changed ownership and the business was discontinued although dances were held in hall until the later twenties when a remodeling of the building ended its service for dancing. The remodeled building today is the home of the Robbins family.

From 1861 to 1865, William Goldschmidt, who later became one of Sunman's leading merchants, was established in a mercantile business in a large frame building that stood on the corner property now owned by John Bender. Soon after the end of the Civil War this property and business was acquired by Alois Hunt, a returned cavalryman, who conducted a saloon and dance hall in connection

with his store business for some years when he disposed of his business interests and spent his remaining years in work as an experienced lock and gun smith.

Adjoining the Kober property in the eastern part of the village was a blacksmith shop wherein Mark Behler was making the first iron plows to be used in the township while farther to the west and fronting on the Versailles Brookville road was a second shop owned by Adam Krouse. Some years later this shop was acquired by George Bennett who in time sold to Peter Schneid and in later years was acquired by Edward Woliung who finally closed its doors to take up residence at Sunman.

Probably the best known businessman of this vicinity was Frederick Peters, Sr., whose home after many years is owned and occupied by the Chester Wiedeman family. Mr. Peters, in addition to serving the township very efficiently during the early sixties in the office of Trustee, an office that is now just as efficiently being filled by the present owner of the property, he was also quite adept in the use of carpenter tools and conducted a shop at his home for many years wherein many of the coffins were made before the advent of factory-made caskets.

During his administration as Township Trustee in 1862, the school children were transferred from the old school building on the Brumpter hill to a new frame building which he had caused to be erected in the village and which he placed in charge of Emma Mitchell. In 1893 the building was replaced by a brick structure that served its purpose through the remaining years until about two years ago when it was closed as a school and is now used as a dwelling.

Penntown, for a period of time embracing probably fifty years, was a center for the amusement loving public, especially to those fond of dancing and it was told us by one who was present, that upon a Fourth of July of one of the late seventies, three dance halls in operation each did a good business throughout the day and night and long into the sunlight of the following day.

The village was also a center for political rallies and important gatherings of all kinds which, with the dances that were held upon practically every holiday of the year, prompted the organization of the township's first brass band which was effected in 1867 by the Schumacher brothers who resided on a farm about a mile east of the village of Morris. It was known as the Schumacher Band and the



Vault erected on the Sunman farm one mile west of Penntown in 1873. Later owned by the Fitch family and is now the property of Everett Scofield. Entombed in the vault for many years were the remains of Thomas Sunman Sr. and his wife Harriet and those of Leah Fitch, young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fitch Sr. who lost her life in a fire that destroyed the home in 1891. The remains of Dr. Irving Sunman also rested here for some years before being removed to a burial site at Versailles. The remains of the others were transferred to a burial place at Lawrenceburg a few years ago.



The Sunman Brass Band in 1910. Standing from left to right: Harvey Roepke, snare drum; Dan Reddert, tuba; Alvin Bruns, baritone; Henry Kammeyer, alto; Fred Heisman, trombone; George Rohls, alto; Sam Heisman, bass drum. Sitting: Frank Meister, cornet and leader; Louis Bruns, cornet; Will Goldschmidt, cornet; Harold Freeland, cornet; Henry Terry, Piccolo. All are surviving today with the exception of Mr. Kammeyer and Sam Heisman, the latter having made the supreme sacrifice in World War I.



An old warehouse, all that remains of the once prosperous industry at Spades, the Enterprise Bracket Co. organized in 1884.



Odd Fellows building after being moved from Spades to Sunman in 1915. Now the property of Sunman Red Men.

membership included Godfried Schumacher, leader; Philip, Henry and Jacob Schumacher, Henry Weber, Charles Klein, and Fred Sieg. After a few years the membership was increased by the addition of John and George Schumacher, John Noll, Jr., Otto Glowka, Adam Baas, Henry Schomber, Howe Pettit and Henry Terry. After twenty years of success in entertaining crowds over a large area the organization was disbanded but not forgotten by the countless number of people who were its hearers. With the passing of the years and many of them since laying aside their instruments the members of that early band have long since departed from earth,—all except one and he was the youth of the organization, Henry Terry, the lone survivor, is a resident of Batesville.

An inspiration, such as music alone can create, and which no doubt was augmented by the successful beginning of the Schumacher Band, prompted the five brothers and a sister of the Jacob Schneider family residing a short distance to the northeast of Sunman, to organize the Schneider Band in 1868, with the following members: Ambrose Schneider, leader; John, Peter, Joseph, Anthony and Miss Julia Schneider. Henry Clemenz, Fred Flodter and Peter Schneid. The organization was a success in every respect and for fifteen years it shared honors with the Schumacher Band as one of the community's entertaining features.

Even though located as a railroad village and surrounded by the same natural resources, Spades did not grow as rapidly during the decades of the sixties and seventies as did Sunman although a fair increase in population and business enterprises are noted, and an addition of twenty-six lots for suitable building sites was made by Michael and Jacob Spade.

As education had long been considered a prime factor in the progress of any community, the need here was not supplied however, until 1862 when a frame school building was erected a short distance to the north of the village and placed in charge of George W. Bower, the first teacher, who later became a prominent Baptist minister. Mr. Bower was succeeded in his school work here by Robert Lewis and he in the following order by George Chambers, John Hoch, Joseph Harvey, Sarah Wiesehan and Charles Wiesehan upon the expiration of whose term the building was replaced in 1891 by a substantial two-story brick building wherein John Wortman and W. E. Peters served as the first

teachers. The building still serves its purpose.

The presence of two musical organizations in the township did not however, discourage Herman Bellstedt, a talented musician and a prominent saloonist as Spades in his attempt to give the people a third brass band that he organized in 1870 under the name of the Bellstedt Band. Among its members under the direction of Mr. Bellstedt were: G. H. Brunning, Henry Steinfort, Herman Barkes, Fred Trennepohl, John Trennepohl and Herman Bellstedt, Jr., the eight year old son of the director, whose natural ability as a musician from childhood carried him to fame in the world of music as one of America's foremost cornetists, composers and directors.

During succeeding years the band underwent many changes in membership and was known by various names, occasioned by changes in leadership until 1890 when it became known as the Kammeyer Band, a name it retained until 1898 when it disbanded after an unbroken service of twenty-eight years.

The only names added to the business at Spades during the seventies of which we could obtain record other than previously mentioned, were those of August Franke and Lewis Wiesehan who, in 1887, formed a partnership and purchased the Frank Klein property and business. A few years later Mr. Franke purchased Mr. Wiesehan's interest and went on to establish a business that grew to be one of the most extensive in the township.

Moving on to Morris we find that the first industry to be established in the village after being platted was the erection of a flour and grist mill that was placed in operation in the early sixties by Henry Schmutte and John Neidheimer. This industry was destined to become permanent and in later years under the ownership and management of the A. J. Bischoff family it became a mill widely known for the quality of its products.

In May of 1866 the land area of Morris was increased on the west by a number of lots and building sites from land owned by Bernard Westrick who then was conducting a mercantile business here and two months later a second addition was made on the east by Henry Schmutte, the miller.

Owing to the close proximity of school houses to the north and to the east a public school building was not erected within the village until 1870 when a little frame structure was built. Although closed some years ago for school

purpose the building still stands.

In addition to a number of shops and stores which no doubt were opened here but of which there is no record, the citizens of Morris and vicinity organized a company in 1875 that was known as the Union Manufacturing Company which for years carried on a successful business in the making of wooden buckets, kegs and wagon material. The building still stands.

This was followed in 1878 by the organization of a Firemen's Association that gave to the township the first organized Fire Department which proved its worth throughout many years.

Advancing time to the decade of the eighties, these next ten years saw the greatest influx of businessmen into the township than during any like period of time.

At Sunman, the year 1880 brought the arrival of Herman H. Bruns, a cobbler, Joseph Schwedenmann, a tinner, Michael Becker, a saloonist and Valentine Hartman, a saddler. Mr. Bruns, the sole survivor of the quartet for a number of years remained in active business over a period of forty-eight years. At the time of his death in 1934 he was recognized as being the town's oldest citizen both in age and in business years. Mr. Schwedenmann also remained in business here over a period of years and conducted his work in a shop that was a part of his residence, now remodeled and moved to another location is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bruns. In later years Mr. Schwedenmann removed his business to a room on the main street of town where all was lost by fire a short time later. Mr. Becker, upon arrival, erected the large brick building that still stands on the triangle lot formed by the railroad and Eastern Ave. Mr. Hartman, after his arrival erected the frame building that is now the remodeled home of Mrs. Mae Kramer. It was here that Mr. Hartman operated his saddlery shop and also conducted the post office during the last administration of President Cleveland.

The same year also saw the name of William Bruns added to the town's business directory when he established a livery business in connection with an undertaking business that was being carried on by his brother, Cordt Bruns, previously mentioned. The livery business was conducted in a large frame barn that he erected upon the site of the present home of Mr. and Mrs. William Drever.

The year 1881 saw the coming of H. G. Bielby and Charles Dunn,

merchants and Dr. J. P. Freeland, physician and father of the writer and Richard Behlmer, Wheelwright. Messrs. Bielby and Dunn after purchasing the property at the southeast corner where stood a blacksmith shop immediately erected a one-story frame store building wherein they became established in a general store business which they carried on until 1889 when Mr. Bielby became sole owner and a few years later erected a large brick residence and store building that is now occupied by the Beer Bros. store.

Dr. Freeland, the second graduate physician to locate here, purchased the Fred Schmall property on the southern outskirts of town where until his death in 1901 he was engaged in the practice of medicine.

Mr. Behlmer, after purchasing the wagon-making shop of Max Felix, then purchased the adjoining property where upon he erected the home that today is the residence of the Walter Osburn family. Mr. Behlmer, in later years, conducted a successful undertaking business here and also served the public very efficiently for two terms as Township Trustee.

The year 1881 also saw the little frame school house in the western part of the village replaced by a large two-story brick structure wherein the following teachers served during the two score years it served as a seat of learning: Mr. and Mrs. George C. Tyrrell, John Cornet, Henry Terry, Albert Terry (the writer's first teacher) Philip Boeglin, John Wortman, William Ferris, Virgil Stegner, Edward Taylor (his last teacher), Wilbur Robinson, Ralph Linville, Romney Devore, O. L. Newman, John Weathers, Charles Clifton, Flora Newman, Nellie Greely and Irvan Blackmore. During later years the enrollment of pupils necessitated the opening of a primary room in the old tinshop building in another part of town that had been used for school purpose many years before as previously mentioned, but a short time later the classes were moved to a room in the Masonic building and again later to a room in the north part of town that is now occupied by the Hallam Swap Shop. Among the teachers of the Primary Grades were: Dirce Freeland, Grace Hendrixson, Frone Alexander and Dora Beer. Although the schools as conducted in those old buildings were merely grade schools, the absence of the present day branches of higher education was well supplied by an excellent brand of a common school education that sent forth gradu-

ates on commencement day who were qualified to enter the future in business and professional activities.

The year 1882 saw the advent of but two business men, the first being Fred Wolter who, after purchasing the Amaza Hazen property, proceeded to establish a hotel, a saloon and livery business that soon became quite extensive. The second, a barber business, was started by William Koenig in one of a row of small business rooms which were located as one building along the east side of what is now the town's central or main business block. Here was installed the first up-to-date barber chair to make its appearance here and four years later the business was purchased by William Osting who carried on until 1904 when, after moving to a new location in the newly erected Drug Store building the business was sold to Charles Morrow. Previous to this year and for brief periods of time a barber business was carried on in another room in this row by Herman Dreyer, Jr., and James Hoog.

This same year also was marked by a number of improvements of railroad property, principally of which was the erection of a large water-tank that was located in close proximity to the northwest corner of the Nieman property, the water supply being provided by a pond in the western part of the village the site of which is now covered by the Standard Oil tanks. The pumping station at the east end of the pond was in charge of George Tangman who later was succeeded by William Stephens whose service to the company in this capacity extended over a period of eighteen years.

The following year, 1883, saw the coming of Dr. Christian Neufarth, the third graduate physician to select Sunman as an ideal place for location and wise was he in his selection as he carried on an extensive practice until his death forty-four years later. Lewis Sieg, another arrival, became established as a contractor and builder and his unerring judgment in taking advantage of the opportunity open to him as a young man starting out in a chosen avocation is evident by his work here for until his death in 1928, he had provided the material and superintended the erection of no less than thirty residences and business buildings within the town limits and in addition had financed and erected twelve residences and business buildings of his own all of which he found buyers for as years passed. His first work in applying his trade after arrival was

the erection of the home of Henry Osting now owned and occupied by the Roman Federle family.

The year 1883 also welcomed the coming of William Goldschmidt, a merchant, who with his son, Emil, embarked in a mercantile business that they conducted in a frame building located immediately west of the present site of the railroad depot.

Joining the ranks of Sunman business men in 1884 were Otto C. Beer and V. W. Bigney, the former, a watchmaker and jeweler, opening a shop in a little one-room frame building that stood upon the corner of the block now covered by the Mack Bros. garage but a few years later the business was moved to a new brick building on the main street that later housed the J. H. Nieman hardware business. In 1891 the business was again moved to the newly erected New Comers building where it remained until after Mr. Beer's death in 1920.

Mr. Bigney became established as a druggist in one of the rooms in the row on the east side of the block as previously mentioned, and here it was that he conducted the affairs of the post office during the first administration of President Cleveland. Following the completion of the New Comers building as mentioned, he moved the business into the room now occupied by Henry Price.

The year 1885 was another of improvement and progress marked first by the establishment of a creamery that was owned and operated by Chris Nieman and Fred Peters, the building for the purpose being located upon the present site of the Mrs. Emma Nieman residence from where it was removed following the closing of the business in 1890, to a new location to be used as a furniture display room by J. H. Nieman. The building today in a new location on Eastern Ave. is owned by John Hashagen who is preparing it for a residence.

A second improvement and one that meant much to the town and community on down through the years was the erection of a large dance hall by William Bruns and William Koenig whose foresight of the future must have been keen for the Big Four Hall, as it was so named, soon became and long remained one of the most popular dance halls over a wide area. Over a long period of years the capacity of the hall was taxed to the limit upon every occasion and that included practically every holiday of the year, by dancers from far and near who assembled to enjoy the pleasures afforded by the cotillions, the waltzers, two-steps

and the schottisches, all through the night until recent years when a number of changes of ownership and the advent of the "flapper" and the "sheik" with their "Hula Hula Wiggle," their "Shimme Shuffle" and other contortionate movements of South Sea Island nature finally sent all to the Jitterbug House and practically closed the doors of the Big Four Hall which today known as the Legion Hall, while in somewhat of a delapidated condition has a well-preserved framework and while open occasionally for dancing it has lost its onetime popularity and drawing power.

During this same year the arrival of William Huneke brought to Sunman a cigarmaking industry that remained throughout many years. Although the number employed was small the industry supplied to smokers over a wide area a brand of five-cent cigar that was equal to and surpassed many of the high-priced brands of the present day. The "Dew Drop" and the "Lean Hoosier" were the popular five-cent brands and the "Main Line" twofer had a ready sale, especially among the young smokers as the cigarette age had not yet started to grow and feminine smokers were unheard of except for an occasional "old lady" whose pipe and long-green filler would put any young smoker of today out for the count.

Another name added to the ever-increasing list of business men was that of George Stegner after his purchase of the William Bruns livery business.

Soon after the advent of the year 1886, George Price, after purchasing the Charles Stephens corner property, erected a large frame hotel building where he soon became established in a successful business that increased with time as it became recognized as being one of the best small-town hosteries in the country.

Even though the year did not bring any other new-comers to town, it nevertheless was marked with a number of events which no doubt were quite instrumental in stimulating the progressive spirit of the citizens to an increased activity for during this time the village suffered a disastrous fire which destroyed the Goldschmidt frame residence and store building, the Pat Diver frame residence and saloon property, the John Tangman hay, grain and feed warehouse and the Nieman hay press and building, a conflagration, though causing a heavy financial loss to the owners proved to be of material benefit to the village as a whole inasmuch as it awakened the inhabitants to a realization of the

need of property protection of some kind that prompted the immediate organization of a volunteer fire company and the purchase of a hand-pumper engine which proved its worth upon a number of occasions in after years.

During this same year, Rev. Alexander Connelley succeeded in organizing a Baptist society, the first religious denomination to effect a start here. Although the society was never great in numbers its members nevertheless were earnest and untiring in their efforts at Christian uplift in the community, but like others who have followed them they were finally compelled to disband.

The ruins of the Goldschmidt and the Diver buildings were replaced the following year by large brick structures, the one being used for many years by the Goldschmidt family in a successful mercantile business and the other as a residence and saloon building by Mr. Diver and others who followed him.

The site of the warehouse ruins with several acres of adjoining land was purchased by Fred Minneman, who, after erecting several large frame buildings wherein he conducted a hardware business in connection with a hay, grain and feed business, also erected a number of dwelling houses upon the remaining ground which practically built up this part of town and relieved to some extent the need of homes. These houses today are the homes of Mrs. Louisa Clemens, Mrs. Mary Cors and daughter Alphie, Mr. and Mrs. John Beer and the John Nedderman family. In this year of 1947 the town is not only in need of homes but also in need of more Fred Minnemans. The one business building remaining is being used as a warehouse by Louis Sieg & Sons.

The year 1887 saw the establishment of the town's first meat market by George and William McMullen, brothers, who opened a shop in one of the rooms in the row several times mentioned, but a few years later after its acquisition by the younger brother, William, the business was moved to another location where it is today as the home of the Osburn & Trautman business. In this room was also the postoffice for sixteen years during Mr. McMullen's terms as postmaster.

Although the year 1888 saw the arrival of but one new-comer, Wm. Cors whose purchase of the Stegner livery and the Bruns undertaking interests was followed by the erection of a large two-story frame building upon the site now occupied by the Peoples Bank & Trust Co. and Hoff store buildings, it nevertheless was marked by a number of

improvements on other properties made by older residents. The first was effected by J. H. Nieman who, after fourteen years of work in operating the flour mill, erected a substantial brick building near the center of town wherein he became established in a hardware and furniture business for thirty-eight years. At the time of his death in 1926, Mr. Nieman had completed fifty-two years of active business life.

Another resident of longstanding to embark in business here was John Heavey who, after erecting a large brick building on the north side of the main business block, became established in a saloon business that he disposed of the following year to John Busching. The property however was purchased by William Ahrens who used the other rooms of the building for a residence and a cobbler shop and shoe store.

The same year also saw the abolishment of the old "teapot" and the old "strawtick" methods of early day banking which followed the organization of the Sunman Building and Loan Association that was started with eighty shares at one hundred each. Despite the presence of several banking institutions that were organized later the association continued in operation until its business was discontinued in the early part of 1945.

The last year of this decade saw the addition of but one improvement, the erection of the H. G. Bielby residence and store building now of the property of Beer Bros.

Although we have endeavored to enumerate all of the business enterprises that had been established here during the eighties there were some left unmentioned until this time because of not knowing the year in which they became established. Among them are George Trautman, a painter, who conducted a shop in a little building adjoining his father's wagonmaking shop. Elmer Flint was established in a blacksmithing business in a shop just south of the flour mill; John Weber, another blacksmith, had erected a large frame shop and residence building on the property now owned by Mrs. Helena Behlmer and Jacob Hornung, engaged in poultry raising was located on the property now the home of the Arvey Webster family.

Before entering upon a description of other parts of the township we wish to make mention of an eccentric character who resided in the immediate vicinity of Sunman whose name, when spoken to an unruly child usually effected behavior for a time when all other

attempts failed, for "Old Jack" was known and feared by every child and some grownups too.

John Roberts, as he was known before Fate turned the tide of his life, was orphaned in babyhood by the death of his parents which left him with no known relatives and to be cared for by kind-hearted friends and neighbors who reared him to young manhood. At the outbreak of the Civil War young Roberts entered the army as a fifer in the 7th Indiana Infantry with which he served throughout the long years of conflict and returned unscathed to again reside among those who had befriended him, but in a life far different from that of his neighbors. Whether it was the shock of battle that had caused a derangement of mind or whether his strange actions were prompted by reasons known only to himself, Mr. Roberts gradually withdrew from his friends and associates and cast his lot with the animals of the forest by living among them and in much the manner of their habits.

Unkempt, filthy and with clothes in tatters he would visit the village almost daily to receive whatever food the people might give him and then return to his animal den or probably a brushpile where he would gorge himself with the raw meat or provisions that he had secured. Despite his manner of living and constant exposure to all kinds of weather, Old Jack outlived his allotted time of life and died in 1895 at the home of Michael Stahley, Sr., at Penntown where he had spent the last years of his life in a civilized manner and at the expense of the county.

Leaving Sunman for a while let us visit the other villages of the township that we may see the progress that each had made during the decade of the eighties.

At Spades we find the business directory with the additional names of John Bohland who was conducting a mercantile business; Henry Price, merchant and postmaster; John Hahn, Terrance Lysaght and John Schmaltz each engaged in a wagonmaking and blacksmithing business; Adam Bohl, painter; Charles Wiesehan, railroad station agent and Henry Pohlar and Henry Timke, saloonists.

In addition to those men, August Franke, who had become well established in a mercantile business was also the agent for the American Express Co. and from 1884 to 1886 he fulfilled the duties of the office of Township Trustee, an office that was filled in later years by Mr. Schmaltz.

In 1884 a stock company was organized under the name of the Enterprise Bracket Company. Starting with a capital of twenty thousand

and dollars a large three-story brick factory building was erected in the center of the village and equipped with machinery for the manufacture of wall brackets and ornamental woodwork that found a ready market in all parts of the country.

Two years later T. W. W. Sunman erected a large dimension and planing mill in the northern part of the village where was produced a fine quality of building material. With the advent of those two industries which gave employment to a goodly number of men and women the village of Spades seemed destined to become the metropolis of the township and probably would have gained that distinction had not reverses in later years caused both industries to be discontinued. A part of the factory building remains standing as a monument to that which might have been.

In 1886 this vicinity was the scene of a sad tragedy which occurred on the Sunman homestead when Mrs. Thomas Sunman, Sr., mother of T. W. W. Sunman, met death by drowning while attempting to ford a swollen stream within sight of the home. Mrs. Sunman had been at the home of her son, a young married man residing on a neighboring farm, when the storm arose and was being returned to her home by horse and buggy by the son when the accident occurred. Mr. Sunman escaped death by clinging to the branches of a tree from where he was rescued. Five years later this homestead was the scene of a second tragedy of which mention will be made later.

Moving on to Morris we there find a marked increase in population with new names added to the business life of the village among whom we shall mention: Herman Oelrich, maker of willow chairs; Joseph Weber, merchant; Frank Kirschner, saloonist; Dr. J. R. Davis, physician and surgeon; Dr. H. P. Edsell, dentist; A. Brandstetter, cigar maker; H. Roell hardware and building materials; Nicholas Dupp, blacksmith; Martin Mollenkamp, cobbler and proprietor of the Washington Hotel and Joseph Fierbusse, cooper and manufacturer of wagon material. Aside from the flour mill and the bucket factory that were placed in operation here in earlier years as previously mentioned, no other industries had been established here so let us leave Morris for a time and journey to Penntown where we find no material change except the establishments of several businesses, a mercantile and saloon business by Samuel Wippel in the corner building that in later years

was purchased and conducted by the Mosmeier Bros.; a wagon-making shop operated by Henry Wolfert and a tailoring business established by Henry Schuerman.

Again returning to the town of Sunman at the beginning of the nineties we find a large number of men employed at a new wood-working plant; a heading factory that had been brought here by a Muncie, Ind., corporation that erected a mill upon the ground now covered by the Naas Corporation buildings. Eight years later the industrial interests were purchased by the St. Mary's Spoke Works of St. Mary's, Ohio, which operated a goodly number of years in the cutting of wagon and furniture material.

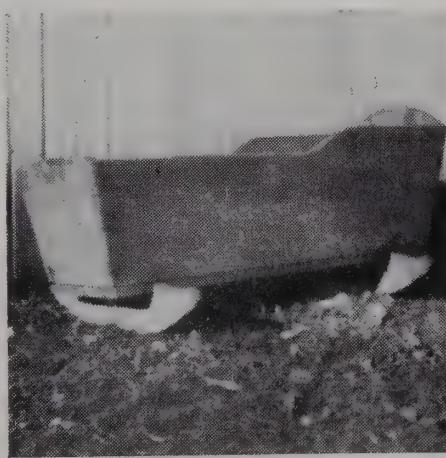
Although an attempt to maintain a Baptist society here had failed, the first year of the nineties saw the organization of another, a Christian Union society organized by the Rev. David L. Vandament, a minister of Bainbridge, Ind., who was serving a congregation at a little rural church some miles to the south of Sunman.

Following the organization regular services were conducted in the "Old Brick Church" as the building had now become familiarly known, until 1898 when through diligent efforts of the pastor and a mere handful of followers a frame House of Worship was erected at another location and named Perry Chapel in memory of a little son of the pastor who had passed on in death just a short time before. After many years of a successful pastorate here during which time he had the pleasure of seeing much good accomplished, Rev. Vandament realizing that a change might be beneficial to the religious life of the community resigned his pastorate and was succeeded by Rev. G. W. Hagans who in turn was followed by Revs. Fair, Bland, Black, Mann, Callon, McMullen and lastly Rev. A. C. Thomas under whose pastorate the society became known as Community Church Workers. The church building, remodeled, stands today as the only House of Worship in Sunman and as a monument to the man who caused its erection.

In 1891 the villagers saw the installation of the first telephone in the community, a line erected by Dr. Vincent between his home and the Walter Fitch residence west of Penntown. Several months later another line was erected by Lewis Sieg and John Bennett, near neighbors, who connected their residences more for the purpose of pleasure than of necessity and their homes were opened daily to visitors who came to marvel at this



Monument marking the grave of Robert Sunman who died in the City of Mexico in 1848. Mr. Sunman, 25 years of age, was one of the staff of officers of the 5th Reg. Indiana Volunteers, and died of disease contracted while in military service in the Mexican War. The remains, sent home in a cask of whiskey, were buried on the farm of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Sunman, near Penntown. The farm is now the property of Everett Scofield



Cradle belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Osburn and used by three generations. Grandparents of Walter Osburn of Sunman.



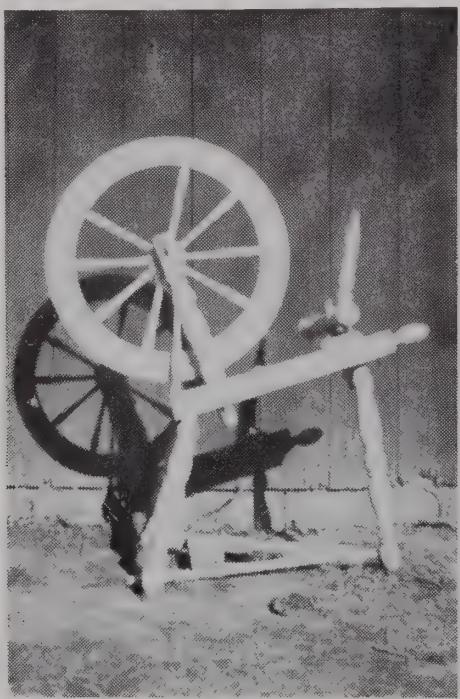
Stump of a telegraph pole cut off at the railroad crossing between Sunman and Spades on July 12, 1863 by a detail from the Morgan Raiders. The stump was dug up by Melchoir Abplanalp whose home was not far distant and who had been watching operations. The stump, beside which, Elwin Abplanalp, a great grandson, is standing, is in a perfect state of preservation and is a prized relic in possession of the Abplanalp family.



Sam Scheivley as a pitcher for the Louisville Colonels of the American Association.



Cabin home of Richard and Dorcas Wortman whose arrival in this territory in 1815 gave them the distinction of being the first white settlers to locate here and erect their home in the midst of a clearing surrounded by a heavy growth of fine timber that was purchased in 1911 by Galbraith & Son who, after cutting the timber then sold the land to Louis Minneman, the present owner. The cabin, located some five miles due west of Sunman, was razed within a short time after the last change of ownership. Standing beside the open door is George Wortman, a son, who was a babe in arms when his parents arrived here, and knew no other home throughout his life that ended in death in 1909.



Spinning Wheel used by Mrs. Henry Osburn, one of the pioneer residents of the Sharp's Corner community. Grandmother of Walter Osburn of Sunman.



St. John's Evangelical Reformed Lutheran Church at Penntown. Erected in 1901 to replace a frame building that was built in 1841.

wonderful invention as they heard voices of friends coming from what appeared to be merely a wooden disk attached to the wall.

Probably the most marked improvement for this year was the erection of the New Comers building, a large two-story brick business structure built by George Price and the New Comers Association, a stock company composed of twelve business men who realized the necessity of a building of this kind. Following completion the south business room on the ground floor was taken by Bigney & Co. druggists and the north room by O. C. Beer, jeweler. The upper room, a spacious hall, became the home of the newly organized fraternal order, the Knights of Pythias, with Dr. E. B. Vincent the first Chancellor Commander.

The advent of the Knights of Pythias was followed a few months later by the institution of Sunman Lodge No. 590 F. & A. M., the organization being effected in the school building where the regular meetings were held and presided over by Samuel Webster, the first Worshipful Master, until the following year when a permanent lodge room was secured in a large three-story frame building erected by Lewis Sieg but which today is Masonic property. In addition to the erection of this building the year 1892 also saw the establishment of a brick-making industry by H. G. Bielby upon the ground now covered by the Henry Creech and the Edward Hill properties.

In 1893 the town welcomed its first merchant tailor, Henry Schuerman, who after several years at Penntown moved his family and business to a new residence and store building here that today is owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Endres. In later years Mr. Schuerman erected a large residence and business building at a new location on Eastern Ave. that is now the home of the Lewis Neukam family.

The year of 1894 was one of inactivity in regard to improvement but the following year 1895 saw the establishment of four business enterprises, the first by Albert Behlmer, a lifelong resident of the community who abandoned his vocation as a carpenter to embark in a general store business in a new building that he erected upon his property on South Meridian Street where he conducted a very successful business until his death in 1927.

The second, a barber shop and grocery, was opened by John Hashagen in the business room that was a part of the William Cors residence, the room being located on the present site of the Hoff

Hardware store. Suffering a loss of all of his equipment and stock in a fire to be mentioned later, Mr. Hashagen purchased the large brick building on the triangle lot formed by the railroad and Eastern Ave. where he resumed his business and remained active in its operation until advanced age compelled his retirement just a few years prior to his death in 1946 at the age of eighty-nine years.

The third business enterprise to make an advent here in '95 was the opening of a newspaper office by Robert Russell, owner and editor of the Sunman News, published weekly in the room now occupied by the Sunman Swap Shop.

The fourth for the year was the establishment of an undertaking business by Richard Behlmer and William Bruns, under the firm name of Behlmer & Bruns, a partnership that continued in business over a period of fifteen years.

Although the Masons were enjoying a successful beginning in their fraternal work here, an increase of interest was stimulated and the Order given an added strength by the organization of a ladies' auxiliary, Enid Chapter No. 153, Order of Eastern Star, that was instituted in 1895 with Mrs. Mayme (Morris) Smith the first Worthy Matron. The excellent leadership of Mrs. Smith and her many successors have guided the Chapter along through the years to the fine record it holds today.

With three fraternal organizations and one religious society well under way and each accomplishing its purpose of moral uplift, the Methodists, under the leadership of Rev. J. N. Jerman, then pastor of the St. Paul Methodist Church, two miles south of town, were the next to attempt to establish a permanent society here by effecting an organization in 1895 that held its services in the "Old Brick Church" for some five years, but despite earnest endeavors by Revs. Kroft, Brumblay and Ward in their turns, the futility of all efforts was realized and the society was finally disbanded.

This was the last attempt by any religious denomination to give Sunman its second church and extreme difficulty has been experienced at times in maintaining the support of but one but this does not imply that the citizens of Sunman were not a God-fearing people for with but few exceptions practically every family was represented in the membership of one of the five churches located within a two-mile radius.

There was nothing of note to occur during the year 1896 other

than many political rallies, torch light parades and other demonstrations as Republicans backing William McKinley for the presidency and Democrats boosting William Jennings Bryan for the exalted position vied with each other to win and it so happened that the Republicans won.

The following year, 1897, was ushered in with the spirit of fraternalism increasing with each passing day which prompted the wives, mothers and sisters of members of the Knights of Pythias to organize an auxiliary of that order and in March of that year Euclid Temple No. 145 Rathbone Sisters, a name that was later changed to that of Pythian Sisters, was instituted with Mrs. Verado (Minnie) Bigney receiving the honor of being selected as its first Most Excellent Chief.

Probably the most important era in the history of Sunman which greatly contributed to its growth and progress were in this and the following year when a petition for articles of incorporation, signed by thirty-five of the town's most influential citizens and business men, was placed before the Board of County Commissioners, and on March 5, 1898 was granted a charter of incorporation under an act providing for the incorporation of towns in the State of Indiana.

Their first act, after receiving the charter, was the selection of town officials and the following were chosen as men capable of performing the duties of their respective offices: Board of Trustees, William Huneke, Fred Peters and Henry Osting; Clerk, Edward Taylor; Treasurer, Otto Beer, Marshal, Fred Greve; School Board, George Price, Herman Thum, Geo. W. Trautman.

Immediate enactment of ordinances for the government of the town followed and the splendid response given by the citizens to whatever they were called upon to do soon brought excellent results that today, after fifty years as an incorporated, Sunman ranks first among many others of like size, in the matter of sanitary conditions and in general improvements advantageous to public welfare. One of the greatest of improvements in which practically one hundred percent cooperation was given by the property owners was the erection of concrete sidewalks which gained for Sunman the distinction of being one of the best of sidewalked towns of its size in the state but years of wear and neglect in repair have erased that distinction and at the time we write many feet of walks about town are in a deplorable condition if not disappeared entirely.

With the passing of more than thirty years since the siege of Vicksburg had brought to a close the great drama of Civil War days, the early months of 1898 found the nation incensed at the dastardly deeds that a foreign power was committing on the little island of Cuba almost within sight of the American coast until February 15, when the sinking of the Battleship Maine that carried three hundred American seamen to a watery grave in Havana harbor, fanned the flame of American anger into immediate action and in the following April the curtain of the Spanish-American War was raised for another drama of bloodshed and heartaches in which Adams Township again was featured when five of her sons, William Webster, Henry Stille, Bertram Connelley, William Timke and Leroy Emehiser responded to President McKinley's call for volunteers and went forth to their country's protection as members of Company M, 161 Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. A few months later, on October 17, the life of Henry Stille was forfeited to the God of War after being stricken with typhoid fever, a disease that exacted a greater toll of human life in the camps of the southland than did enemy bullets at Saniago and San Juan.

No other casualties were suffered by the township but many anxious hours were spent by those at home throughout the months that the boys were absent and their return at the close of hostilities was greeted in a manner not unlike that as bestowed upon the veterans returned from the earlier war.

Before passing on into the twentieth century let us return for a brief visit to the other villages of the township where we will find that practically no changes had been made in business activities during the decade of the nineties except at Spades where the discontinuance of factory and sawmill operations practically caused an end to all hopes of village growth.

The establishment of those two industries had been responsible for a substantial increase in population among which were people quite interested in the work of fraternalism and in 1891 an I. O. O. F. organization was instituted at Spades with Jacob Kaplan presiding as its first Noble Grand. The organization was immediately followed by the erection of a large two-story frame hall building where weekly meetings were held until conditions finally compelled a change of location and in 1915 the building was razed and the material used in the erection of a

lodge building at Sunman to where the order was transferred to become known as Sunman Lodge No. 669, I. O. O. F.

While at Spades the lower room of the building was used for the holding of church services by Rev. C. M. Kroft who in 1892 effected the organization of a Methodist society that prospered for several years and then disbanded when a lack of interest failed to give the support necessary to its maintenance.

The year 1891 also found the Spades and Penntown vicinities visited by another tragedy, the second to occur upon the old Sunman homestead, when the life of Leah Fitch, a little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fitch Sr. and that of Mrs. Emma Knapp, an employee in the family, were lost in a fire that destroyed the Fitch home.

Passing on with the years we find the town of Sunman making a very rapid progress in general improvements that continued throughout the first decade of the new century. The building of thousands of feet of concrete sidewalks, extensive street improvements, the completion of large fire cisterns, the installation of drainage and lighting systems and many lesser improvements in public and private properties all tended to make the town all that it is today.

The most extensive private improvement during the first year of this new century was the erection of the Bigney Block, a large two-story brick business building of which the ground floor space was immediately occupied by Bigney & Co. druggists and the W. T. Osting barber shop while the large second floor room became the wigwam of Ojibwa Tribe No. 306, Improved Order of Red Men that was instituted the following year, with Frank J. Dudley serving as the first Sachem.

Following Mr. Bigney's appointment as postmaster during the first administration of President Wilson, the postoffice was transferred from the McMullen meat market building where it had been located for fourteen years to the room in the Bigney building that had been vacated when the barber shop was moved to a new location. The office remained in this room until 1937 when it was transferred to its present location, the former home of the Sunman State Bank.

The year 1900 also marked the coming of Messrs Talbert and Galbraith who, after purchasing the Kellogg sawmill property and interests, immediately erected a modern band-mill. This partnership, however, was soon dissolved and the business passed into the

control of Mr. Galbraith and his son Frank, who, under the firm name of Galbraith & Son operated a successful hardwood lumber business and provided practically the only permanent employment to the laboring class until the son's death in 1944 when the property and interests were acquired by new owners of which mention will be made later. In addition to their mill activities, Messrs Galbraith were also identified with other interests here that merited worthy recognition for their worth to the town.

The name of Fred Brinkman was also added to the town's business directory during this same year by his purchase of the Fred Greve livery business which had formerly been conducted by William Cors. Mr. Brinkman also purchased the adjoining Cors property where he became established in a hotel business until the destruction of the property by fire a few years later.

Following the disbanding of the Kammeyer Brass Band in 1898 the township was without any musical organization until 1900, when through the efforts of Dr. James Birchfield, a resident physician who had located here during a two-year period of absence of Dr. Vincent, a brass band was organized with the following membership: Richard Beer, Wilbur Robinson, William Behlmer, Harry Flodter, Lewis Bruns, William Thum, Ira Brinkman, Walter Brinkman, Harold Freeland, Walter Bigney, Edward Gutapfel, Charles Hashagen, Henry Groseklose, Henry Price and Harry Behlmer with Dr. Birchfield as the instructor.

The band was immediately equipped with a set of instruments purchased with funds generously provided by townspeople and the wonderful display of each member's ability to play after securing his instrument was such as to cause a general exodus of rats but as practice makes perfect and a determination to learn gripped each member the discordant blats and blares of brass horns soon became blended into a harmony of sound that was quite pleasing to the ear.

Another week or two passed and the proud windjammers marched forth to entertain the public with their first street concert, a program opening with the "Silverton Quickstep" and closing with the "Quickstep Silverton", the end of the brief concert coming quite suddenly when the bass drum was rendered hors de musical by coming in contact with the sharp edge of a woodbox baton in the hand of an over-jubilant director.

The organization enjoyed a successful beginning under the able leadership and instruction of Dr. Birchfield who, a short time later

was succeeded by Edward Beer and he in turn by Frank P. Meister who led the band in a rapid advancement which soon placed it in the foremost rank of small town bands.

Although undergoing many changes in personnel during succeeding years it remained intact and entertained the public upon all occasions over a wide area and for a long period of years until the outbreak of World War I in 1917 when compelled to disband as a number of its members responded to the call to military service, two of whom, Christ Endres and Samuel Heisman made the supreme sacrifice upon foreign soil. Of the charter members there are seven, Richard Beer, Wilbur Robinson, Harry Flodter, Edward Gutapfel, Walter Bigney, Harry Behlmer and Charles Hashagen who have joined their old leader, Dr. Birchfield, in death, while surviving we find Lewis Bruns, Ira Brinkman, Henry Grosekrouse, Henry Price and Harold Freeland as residents of Sunman, William Thum located at Indianapolis, William Behlmer at home in Connersville, Ind. and Walter Brinkman at Pana, Illinois. Edward Beer and Frank Meister, former directors, are located at Rushville, Ind. and at Apopka, Fla. respectively.

Early in the year 1900 a number of Sunman's most influential business men met and discussed the feasibility of establishing a banking institution and after meeting with prompt encouragement and approval of the citizenry the matter soon took definite shape and in November of this same year the Sunman State Bank was authorized to commence business with a capital stock of \$25,000 which it did in the following January in a substantial building erected for the purpose and which today is in use as a post office.

The Board of Directors composed of Christ Nieman, Pres.; Dr. C. Neufarth, Vic. Pres., G. B. Ashton, V. W. Bigney, George Cravens, Henry Schuck, Newton Ward, John Bellman, Charles Stevenson and Cashier, William Robinson, constituted a corps of officials whose high moral standing and business qualifications were ample and sufficient guarantees to the public to allay any fears or doubts of the institution's firmness.

Owing to other business interests, Mr. Robinson resigned as cashier after a short time and was succeeded by John Goodapple who served until 1907 when he too, resigned because of business interests elsewhere and the position accepted by Lewis Bruns.

Mr. Nieman served the office of president until his death in 1918

which created a vacancy that was ably filled by H. G. Bielby.

Six years later, in 1907, a second banking institution, the Farmers' National Bank was organized and in September of the same year was chartered with a capital stock of \$25,000 and a few months later, on December 10, was opened for business in a new building which today is the home of the Peoples Bank & Trust Co.

Officered by Dr. C. Neufarth, Pres., Dr. E. B. Vincent, Vice Pres., Fred Kassendick, Adam Sahn, Ulysses Shirling and Cashier, John Minger, this second band met with a successful beginning and through the courteous and affable manner of Mr. Minger's dealing with patrons and with other qualifications of highest character that were his the bank grew and increased in business through the years until his death in 1930.

The histories of these two banks are of unexampled prosperity. The high character of their projectors with their financial abilities and large resources gave each a prominent place among the strongest and most solid financial institutions in the country, but neither was impregnable to the attack of the financial depression that swept the nation in the early years of the thirties and with thousands of other banking institutions over the country both of these banks were forced to make permanent the closing of their doors.

Although free delivery of rural mail was being made in various parts of Ripley County the rural districts of Adams Township did not enjoy this service until 1901, when through the efforts of Postmaster William McMullen and people of the farms, Route No. 1 was established out of Sunman which extended over a circuit of twenty-nine miles to the west and southwest of town with Chris Voss serving as the first carrier. Mr. Voss soon resigned however, and was succeeded by Joseph Stahley and he a few years later by Theodore Reible whose death in 1920 caused a vacancy that was filled by Paul Day. After twenty-seven years the post is again vacant awaiting the appointment of a successor to Mr. Day whose death occurred a few days after being injured in an automobile accident in late November of 1947.

In the following year of 1902 Route No. 2 was established over a twenty-nine mile circuit to the east and north-east of town with John Stahley as the first carrier. After several years he was succeeded by R. C. Powell who served the route until ill health compelled his retirement in 1933.

In 1903 the rural residents to the south and south-east of town over a twenty-nine mile circuit were given free mail delivery service with the establishment of Route No. 3 which was placed in charge of J. F. Brinkman who served his patrons until his death in 1923 when he was succeeded by his grandson, Clarence Brinkman, the present carrier.

Soon after the retirement of Mr. Powell a change in the routing of mail delivery out of Sunman was made in which Route No. 3 was eliminated and reestablished to become a part of Routes 1 and 2.

With the establishment of routes out of Spades and Morris which enabled the whole of the rural district of Adams Township to receive free mail delivery service, the next question to be brought before the rural citizenry was that of improvement in road conditions with the result that a petition for a pike was granted by the county commissioners and in 1903 the first macadamised road to traverse the township was completed. While this road was then accepted as a vast improvement over the old mud type that sometimes became impassable in the wet seasons there followed in later years far greater improvements which today makes traveling a pleasure to all who cross the township over State Highway No. 101. With the completion of this first pike, other roads in the township were improved by the county until today practically all roads within its boundaries over which the amount of travel has justified the expenditure has been macadamized.

Returning again to the business life of Sunman we find the business directory being changed in 1901 by the addition of the name of R. A. Behlmer who had purchased the Michael Meister blacksmithing interests which Mr. Meister had carried on for a number of years as successor to John Hauck who had carried on in his trade as a smith during the decades of the eighties.

Another business change during that year was the purchase of the Nieman property and mercantile interests by Edward Behlmer, a former resident of Sunman who returned after conducting a general store business at Morris for several years.

Another business addition to the town during this year was that of a confectionery and gents' furnishing store established by Henry Price in the room in the New Comers building that had just been vacated by Bigney & Co., druggists.

The following year 1902, saw the arrival of Joseph Kuebel, a widely-known businessman who had been located at Weisburg for a goodly

number of years. After purchasing the late Fred Peters business property Mr. Kuebel conducted an extensive feed and live stock business for some twelve years during which time he became recognized as one of Sunman's most influential citizens whose spirit of public progressiveness meant much to the town of which later mention will be made.

Another business change during the year was the purchase of the Bielby & Wetzler hardware interests by Henry Busching and Richard Beer who conducted the business under the firm name of Busching and Beer.

Another attempt in the establishment of a newspaper here which might remain as a permanent fixture was made during this year of 1902 when Galen Oderkirk edited and published the Tri-County Greeting but like his predecessor, Mr. Russell, he soon found that a newspaper publisher in Sunman without any other means of livelihood stood about as much chance of keeping the proverbial wolf from the door as the writer has of becoming the Chief Executive of our great nation, so he soon pulled up his presses and took leave for other parts.

The only activity here of any note during the year 1903 was the building of a new fire house in one corner of which a cell was placed as a temporary home for those whose conduct was not in accordance with the rules of society. As to the first occupant we have no record but we know that among the first was an old fellow who overloaded his capacity for "Lager" to the extent that his legs could no longer provide him with means of transportation so he was put to bed in the town's guest chamber. All was quiet until he a-wakened and desired freedom which he made known by ringing the fire bell. He got what he wanted and was soon on his way homeward.

Although a number of private telephone lines had been put into operation to several of the neighboring villages by Sunman's two physicians, Dr. Vincent and Dr. Neufarth, it was not however, until the year 1904 that the public had any long distance service when toll lines connecting Sunman with Aurora and Milan were erected by E. W. Swarthout and C. M. Bowers who established an exchange system at the McMullen meat market from where it was removed later to a room in the adjoining building now occupied by the Hallam Typewriter Service.

Four years later after various improvements and additions of lines, a new franchise was granted

under the name of the Southern Indiana Telephone Co. The service however, did not prove to be of satisfaction to a number of subscribers who in 1912 organized an independent company and was granted a franchise under the name of the Farmers' Telephone Co. with an exchange being installed in a room of the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Scheivley where it remained until 1919 when the interests of both companies were purchased by Edward Behlmer and the business conducted from the Southern exchange room. In 1922 the exchange was transferred to a room in what is now the Webster store building and the following year the interests were incorporated under the name of the Sunman Telephone Company which was purchased ten years later by the present owner Robert Miller, and the business moved to its present location.

Another change in the business life of the town during the year was the purchase of the Michael Wippel saloon business and property by John J. Hoff who but a few months later sold his interests to Edward Cook.

During the year 1904 the building area of Sunman was again increased by the addition of building lots, the fourth since the original platting of the village by James Vanness in 1856, but before preceding with a description of this latest addition we will first summarize the growth of the town in this respect from the beginning.

In order however, for one to better understand the locations of the original platting and subsequent additions it is necessary to be familiar with the town streets and their names and as a large majority of our readers have no knowledge whatever of Sunman in this respect let us take a "Get Acquainted" tour of the town for some day this knowledge might be of use.

Extending across the area, north and south, and dividing it into east and west sections of equal size, is Meridian Street, the main thoroughfare but which on road maps is designated as State Road No. 101. In early years this was known as the Versailles-Brookville road and later as the Penntown road.

While it is the general belief that the railroad is the dividing line between north and south this is not entirely correct because the railroad does not traverse the area on a direct line east and west but on a diagonal line southeast and northwest. The true line of division, according to survey is Eastern Ave. extending eastward from the Meridian St. crossing of the rail-

road and Western Ave. a short length of street in the western part of town which might appear to be an extension of Fremont St. in an angle westward at the southeast corner of the Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Beer property. In early years these two avenues traversed the area as one road known as the Hubbles-St. Nicholas road. In later years after being taken over by the state in its improvement plan the Hubbles end of this road was designated on road maps as State Road No. 46 until discontinued as such a few years ago after the completion of the present Highway 46 now crossing the northern part of Adams Township.

Because of the diagonal line of the railroad all other streets as surveyed after the building of this road are on parallel lines extending in a southeasterly-northwesterly direction and in order to keep the town site as square as possible all streets extending in the opposite direction are on lines northeast and southwest, but despite the care taken by the men engaged in the platting there are many building lots of triangular shape.

For convenience in writing however, we shall use the four cardinal points of the compass in locating the other streets the first to be mentioned being Vine St. which extends westward from Meridian St. at the Schene Drug Store to a dead end at the northwest corner of the Maurice property. One block to the north and crossing Meridian St. at the Peoples Bank & Trust Co. corner, is Washington St. extending from the Bacon Lumber Co. property on the west to a junction with Pearl St. on the east at the southeast corner of the Harry Hoff property.

Branching off to the south from Washington St. are three short streets, the first to the west of Meridian being Fillmore St. which extends from the Mack Bros. garage corner to the main entrance of the Naas Corporation property. To the west of this street and extending from the Community Parsonage corner to the warehouse entrance of the Naas property is Buchanan St. The next and last to the west is Fremont St. extending from the northeast corner of the Howard Cook property to an intersection with Western Ave. at the corner of the Leonard Beer property as previously mentioned.

Branching off to the north from Washington St. and to the west of Meridian is Fitch Ave. which turns eastward at the Mary Cors property to intersect with Meridian St. at the northeast corner of the Louisa Clemens property. Running north from Washington St. at its

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Mr. Nieman served the office of president until his death in 1918

which created a vacancy that was ably filled by H. G. Bielby.

Six years later, in 1907, a second banking institution, the Farmers' National Bank was organized and in September of the same year was chartered with a capital stock of \$25,000 and a few months later, on December 10, was opened for business in a new building which today is the home of the Peoples Bank & Trust Co.

Officered by Dr. C. Neufarth, Pres., Dr. E. B. Vincent, Vice Pres., Fred Kassendick, Adam Sahm, Ulysses Shirling and Cashier, John Minger, this second band met with a successful beginning and through the courteous and affable manner of Mr. Minger's dealing with patrons and with other qualifications of highest character that were his the bank grew and increased in business through the years until his death in 1930.

The histories of these two banks are of unexampled prosperity. The high character of their projectors with their financial abilities and large resources gave each a prominent place among the strongest and most solid financial institutions in the country, but neither was impregnable to the attack of the financial depression that swept the nation in the early years of the thirties and with thousands of other banking institutions over the country both of these banks were forced to make permanent the closing of their doors.

Although free delivery of rural mail was being made in various parts of Ripley County the rural districts of Adams Township did not enjoy this service until 1901, when through the efforts of Postmaster William McMullen and people of the farms, Route No. 1 was established out of Sunman which extended over a circuit of twenty-nine miles to the west and southwest of town with Chris Voss serving as the first carrier. Mr. Voss soon resigned however, and was succeeded by Joseph Stahley and he a few years later by Theodore Reible whose death in 1920 caused a vacancy that was filled by Paul Day. After twenty-seven years the post is again vacant awaiting the appointment of a successor to Mr. Day whose death occurred a few days after being injured in an automobile accident in late November of 1947.

In the following year of 1902 Route No. 2 was established over a twenty-nine mile circuit to the east and north-east of town with John Stahley as the first carrier. After several years he was succeeded by R. C. Powell who served the route until ill health compelled his retirement in 1933.

In 1903 the rural residents to the south and south-east of town over a twenty-nine mile circuit were given free mail delivery service with the establishment of Route No. 3 which was placed in charge of J. F. Brinkman who served his patrons until his death in 1923 when he was succeeded by his grandson, Clarence Brinkman, the present carrier.

Soon after the retirement of Mr. Powell a change in the routing of mail delivery out of Sunman was made in which Route No. 3 was eliminated and reestablished to become a part of Routes 1 and 2.

With the establishment of routes out of Spades and Morris which enabled the whole of the rural district of Adams Township to receive free mail delivery service, the next question to be brought before the rural citizenry was that of improvement in road conditions with the result that a petition for a pike was granted by the county commissioners and in 1903 the first macadamised road to traverse the township was completed. While this road was then accepted as a vast improvement over the old mud type that sometimes became impassable in the wet seasons there followed in later years far greater improvements which today makes traveling a pleasure to all who cross the township over State Highway No. 101. With the completion of this first pike, other roads in the township were improved by the county until today practically all roads within its boundaries over which the amount of travel has justified the expenditure has been macadamized.

Returning again to the business life of Sunman we find the business directory being changed in 1901 by the addition of the name of R. A. Behlmer who had purchased the Michael Meister blacksmithing interests which Mr. Meister had carried on for a number of years as successor to John Hauck who had carried on in his trade as a smith during the decades of the eighties.

Another business change during that year was the purchase of the Nieman property and mercantile interests by Edward Behlmer, a former resident of Sunman who returned after conducting a general store business at Morris for several years.

Another business addition to the town during this year was that of a confectionery and gents' furnishing store established by Henry Price in the room in the New Comers building that had just been vacated by Bigney & Co., druggists.

The following year 1902, saw the arrival of Joseph Kuebel, a widely-known businessman who had been located at Weisburg for a goodly

number of years. After purchasing the late Fred Peters business property Mr. Kuebel conducted an extensive feed and live stock business for some twelve years during which time he became recognized as one of Sunman's most influential citizens whose spirit of public progressiveness meant much to the town of which later mention will be made.

Another business change during the year was the purchase of the Bielby & Wetzler hardware interests by Henry Busching and Richard Beer who conducted the business under the firm name of Busching and Beer.

Another attempt in the establishment of a newspaper here which might remain as a permanent fixture was made during this year of 1902 when Galen Oderkirk edited and published the Tri-County Greeting but like his predecessor, Mr. Russell, he soon found that a newspaper publisher in Sunman without any other means of livelihood stood about as much chance of keeping the proverbial wolf from the door as the writer has of becoming the Chief Executive of our great nation, so he soon pulled up his presses and took leave for other parts.

The only activity here of any note during the year 1903 was the building of a new fire house in one corner of which a cell was placed as a temporary home for those whose conduct was not in accordance with the rules of society. As to the first occupant we have no record but we know that among the first was an old fellow who overloaded his capacity for "Lager" to the extent that his legs could no longer provide him with means of transportation so he was put to bed in the town's guest chamber. All was quiet until he a-wakened and desired freedom which he made known by ringing the fire bell. He got what he wanted and was soon on his way homeward.

Although a number of private telephone lines had been put into operation to several of the neighboring villages by Sunman's two physicians, Dr. Vincent and Dr. Neufarth, it was not however, until the year 1904 that the public had any long distance service when toll lines connecting Sunman with Aurora and Milan were erected by E. W. Swarthout and C. M. Bowers who established an exchange system at the McMullen meat market from where it was removed later to a room in the adjoining building now occupied by the Hallam Typewriter Service.

Four years later after various improvements and additions of lines, a new franchise was granted

under the name of the Southern Indiana Telephone Co. The service however, did not prove to be of satisfaction to a number of subscribers who in 1912 organized an independent company and was granted a franchise under the name of the Farmers' Telephone Co. with an exchange being installed in a room of the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Scheivley where it remained until 1919 when the interests of both companies were purchased by Edward Behlmer and the business conducted from the Southern exchange room. In 1922 the exchange was transferred to a room in what is now the Webster store building and the following year the interests were incorporated under the name of the Sunman Telephone Company which was purchased ten years later by the present owner Robert Miller, and the business moved to its present location.

Another change in the business life of the town during the year was the purchase of the Michael Wippel saloon business and property by John J. Hoff who but a few months later sold his interests to Edward Cook.

During the year 1904 the building area of Sunman was again increased by the addition of building lots, the fourth since the original platting of the village by James Vanness in 1856, but before preceding with a description of this latest addition we will first summarize the growth of the town in this respect from the beginning.

In order however, for one to better understand the locations of the original platting and subsequent additions it is necessary to be familiar with the town streets and their names and as a large majority of our readers have no knowledge whatever of Sunman in this respect let us take a "Get Acquainted" tour of the town for some day this knowledge might be of use.

Extending across the area, north and south, and dividing it into east and west sections of equal size, is Meridian Street, the main thoroughfare but which on road maps is designated as State Road No. 101. In early years this was known as the Versailles-Brookville road and later as the Penntown road.

While it is the general belief that the railroad is the dividing line between north and south this is not entirely correct because the railroad does not traverse the area on a direct line east and west but on a diagonal line southeast and northwest. The true line of division, according to survey is Eastern Ave. extending eastward from the Meridian St. crossing of the rail-

road and Western Ave. a short length of street in the western part of town which might appear to be an extension of Fremont St. in an angle westward at the southeast corner of the Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Beer property. In early years these two avenues traversed the area as one road known as the Hubbles-St. Nicholas road. In later years after being taken over by the state in its improvement plan the Hubbles end of this road was designated on road maps as State Road No. 46 until discontinued as such a few years ago after the completion of the present Highway 46 now crossing the northern part of Adams Township.

Because of the diagonal line of the railroad all other streets as surveyed after the building of this road are on parallel lines extending in a southeasterly-northwesterly direction and in order to keep the town site as square as possible all streets extending in the opposite direction are on lines northeast and southwest, but despite the care taken by the men engaged in the platting there are many building lots of triangular shape.

For convenience in writing however, we shall use the four cardinal points of the compass in locating the other streets the first to be mentioned being Vine St. which extends westward from Meridian St. at the Schene Drug Store to a dead end at the northwest corner of the Maurice property. One block to the north and crossing Meridian St. at the Peoples Bank & Trust Co. corner, is Washington St. extending from the Bacon Lumber Co. property on the west to a junction with Pearl St. on the east at the southeast corner of the Harry Hoff property.

Branching off to the south from Washington St. are three short streets, the first to the west of Meridian being Fillmore St. which extends from the Mack Bros. garage corner to the main entrance of the Naas Corporation property. To the west of this street and extending from the Community Parsonage corner to the warehouse entrance of the Naas property is Buchanan St. The next and last to the west is Fremont St. extending from the northeast corner of the Howard Cook property to an intersection with Western Ave. at the corner of the Leonard Beer property as previously mentioned.

Branching off to the north from Washington St. and to the west of Meridian is Fitch Ave. which turns eastward at the Mary Cors property to intersect with Meridian St. at the northeast corner of the Louisa Clemens property. Running north from Washington St. at its



Spades Schoolhouse erected in 1891 and still in use.



St. Nicholas Catholic Church erected in 1855 to replace a log building that had been built in 1837.



Looking west from a point just east of the Meridian St. crossing of the railroad at Sunman in 1895. To the left you see the corner of the Nieman residence and the railroad water tank, both destroyed by the big fire in 1905. The fireman of local engine has just completed taking on water. The engine is on the main line and the lines of rails to the right is a sidetrack. The corner of the picket fence seen at the right enclosed the Nieman barnyard, now the site of the Zimmerman garage. The row of warehouses still stand. The only one of the boys with hoops we can identify is Charles Clifton wearing the flowered shirt. Henry Osting stands near the corner of the Nieman building, now the site of the Clover Farm Store.



Baptist Church erected at Penntown in 1863 to replace a frame structure that had been destroyed by fire early in the same year after twenty years of service. The building stands today, long unused, and in a good state of preservation.

eastern end is Pearl St. which intersects with Eastern Ave. at the northeast corner of the Clarence Brinkman property.

A short distance to the east of the Meridian St. crossing of the railroad and branching off from Eastern Ave. is Jackson St. which extends southeastward across Pearl St. to a point several hundred feet beyond near the homes of Henry Creech and Edward Hill. Intersecting with Jackson St. and extending south across the railroad and Washington St. to an alley at the rear of the Elizabeth Cowles property is Lafayette St.

Beginning at the southeast corner of the Farm Bureau property in the north central part of town is Taylor Ave. which extends eastward to an alley some two hundred fifty feet from the corporate line.

Intersecting with Eastern Ave. about five hundred feet to the east of the Meridian St. crossing to a point between the John Hoff and Henry Price properties, is Nieman St. which extends north to Taylor Ave.

Some three hundred fifty feet farther to the east to a point between the Harvey Mosmeier and William Endres properties, is Kuebel St. connecting Eastern Avenue with Taylor Ave. on the north.

With this description of street lines completed let us now note the growth of the town by additions of building sites.

The original plat as made by James Vanness in 1856 was a part of the N. W. fourth of the N. W. quarter of Section 16, Township 9 north of range 13 east and consisted of forty-three lots with streets and alleys which covered that area of the village extending south from what is now Eastern Ave. to the alley now separating the building occupied by the Price confectionery from the Webster Store building and from Meridian St. east to the alley immediately east of Pearl St. or separating the Nordloh and Schmidt properties, with four additional lots being located east of this alley.

In April of the following year the first addition was made by Mr. Vanness from a part of the N. E. fourth of the N. E. quarter of Section 17, and from a part of the S. E. fourth of the S. E. quarter of Section 8, Township 9, Range 13 east, the whole consisting of one hundred sixteen lots that covered the area extending west from Meridian St. to a line dividing what is now the Galbraith and the Bacon Lumber Co. properties and south from the railroad to Vine St. and all lots fronting on the south side of this street.

In August of this same year Mr. Vanness made a second addition of

seven lots in Section 16 that adjoined the original plat on the south and covered the area located along the south side of the alley now separating the Price and the Webster business places.

No other increase was made until 1894 when H. G. Bielby and L. A. Wetzler conducting a hardware business under the firm name of Bielby & Wetzler, purchased the F. H. Minneman property, had it platted and added to the town the five lots now occupied by the Sieg warehouse and the John Nedderman, John Beer and Mary Cors homes along Fitch Ave., this land being a part of Section 8.

Arriving now to 1904 and addition was made by Christ Nieman which consisted of thirteen lots on land that was a part of the S. W. quarter of Section 9 and which are located along the north side of an fronting on Eastern Ave. where today they are occupied by the homes between and including those of Louis Neukam and Edward Knerr and the properties at the extreme end of the avenue now belonging to Fred Behlmer and Roy Nedderman.

Eight years later, in 1912, the sixth and the last addition to date, was made by Walter Fitch and consisted of thirty-six lots in Section 9 platted from land immediately to the rear of the Nieman and Kuebel additions. The lots were sold at public auction and although all were disposed of there are but three that are occupied by homes at this time.

Returning to the year 1904 to resume the account of business activities we find Jacob Meister engaged in a blacksmithing business in a new shop he had erected upon the site that is now occupied by the Ollie Wuelner home where he conducted a successful business for many years.

This same year found the Railroad Company in the midst of extensive improvement work which included the building of double tracking, the installation of an improved interlocking system, the removal of the stand-pipes for supplying engines with water to a new location east of town and the erection of a new telegraph and interlocking tower on a new site west of town. This work necessitating the employment of a large force of workmen added greatly to an increase of business here. Sunman, at this time before the advent of motor trucks, was the shipping center in a large area. Crates of calves, coops of chickens, cases of eggs, firkins of butter filled two hand trucks daily for express shipment to Cincinnati. Carloads of livestock, hay, grain and flour were weekly freight shipments and car-

loads of lumber and fire wood were shipped daily to all parts of the country. This shipping area included the trading areas of Penntown, Lawrenceville and St. Peters whose merchants were patrons of the railroad at this place and helped Sunman to become recognized as one of the largest shipping places for farm products along the line between Cincinnati and Indianapolis.

Although the year 1905 was not marked by any business changes other than the arrival of Guss Brunner who purchased the barbershop interests that had long before been established by Will Osting and later conducted by others after Mr. Osting's departure to another location, it nevertheless brought to the town one of the most trying days that its citizens had ever been called upon to experience, when late in the afternoon of Thursday March 23 a fire that broke out in the rear of the Butler livery barn was soon fanned into a roaring conflagration by a brisk March wind that caused a rapid spread of flames in all directions except to the south and within a few hours eight residence and business buildings with a number of smaller outbuildings were entirely consumed and a number of other business structures badly damaged.

The entire northern half of the main business block which included the area bounded on the north by Washington St., on the east by Meridian St., on the south by Vine St. and on the west by Fillmore St. was laid waste as was also a large residence and store building across Washington St. to the north. Property destroyed included the Butler livery barn, a large frame structure fronting on Meridian St. with all contents, including five horses; a one-story frame building of four front business rooms adjoining the livery barn to the south on Meridian St.; the large two-story frame residence and hotel building of Fred Brinkman's in which the John Hashagen barbershop and grocery was located, with all contents; Joseph Wippel's two-story brick residence and saloon building with most contents; Emory Heavey's story and a half frame residence, and Edward Cook's large two-story frame residence and saloon building, all fronting on Washington St. William Huneke's frame barn and tobacco store house at the rear of the Cook property; Edward Behlmer's two-story brick and frame residence and store building that fronted the entire length of the west side of Meridian St. between Washington St. and the railroad. A large wooden water tank located at the northwest corner of the Behlmer proper-

ty and used by the railroad company as a water supply for their locomotives was also destroyed despite being full to capacity. Leaping across Meridian St. from the livery barn the flames attacked and badly damaged the large two-story frame Schuck residence and hotel building. In addition some twelve or fourteen outbuildings were consumed. Many other buildings adjacent to the burned area were badly scorched and blistered by the intense heat and a grove of maple trees across Meridian St. from the Behlmer property soon became but mere shells of trunks which stood however for many years after as silent reminders of that day of great excitement.

Financial loss was great and much the heavier because of inability to save the contents of the greater number of the buildings due to the rapid spread of the flames and the intense smoke. That a much heavier loss was not suffered was probably due to a kind act of Providence, for with inadequate fire-fighting facilities at hand and a strong southwest wind, the entire northern and eastern sections of town seemed doomed until a change in the wind both in direction and velocity enabled the firefighters to gain control and thus prevent further loss.

While disaster had struck them a heavy blow the losers, although down were not out and soon arose to commence work of clearing away the debris to make way for new and more modern structures which today cover those once blackened sites. Where once the Behlmer building stood is now the site of the Clover Farm Store building, the Dreyer residence stands upon the site of the old livery barn and the well and pump at the front corner was just within the large main room of the barn. The site of the Brinkman Hotel is now covered by the Peoples Bank & Trust Co. building and the Hoff Hardware Store. The Wipple building is much the same as the one destroyed except it is somewhat larger and of the more modern style. Covering the site of the Cook building are the Mack Bros. garage and cottage. The site where once stood the row of small business rooms along Meridian St. between what is now the Dreyer home and the Beer Bros. Store building remains free of buildings as the flames had left it those forty-three years ago, although located in the business center of town and an ideal place for a business building.

With a surrounding of good farm land which was well adapted to the growing of all kinds of products the feasibility of establishing

a cannery industry here was discussed for some time and finally took definite shape by the forming of a stock company that was organized under the name of the Co-operative Canning Company that immediately erected and equipped suitable buildings on the ground formerly occupied by the St. Mary's Spoke Works, where tomatoes, corn, beans and other products were canned and marketed for several years until reverses of various forms finally compelled activities to cease and a few years later the interests were disposed of to the Sheriff Preserve Co. of Cincinnati, who after making extensive improvements resumed operation in the canning of tomato products only which was carried on for several seasons until 1932 when the interests were purchased by the Naas Corporation of Cohocton, N. Y. who, since acquisition of the property have enlarged the plant to a considerable size and have carried on a successful business in the processing of large tomato crops annually with the finished products being shipped to all parts of the country and abroad.

During the same year of the organization of the Cooperative Canning Co. in 1905 the dairymen of the community in cooperation with a number of Sunman businessmen organized the Clover Leaf Elgin Creamery Company which was immediately followed by the erection and equipping of a modern creamery building upon a site in close proximity to the cannery property. For a number of years the creamery carried on in a thriving business until the large corporations of the cities with their ways and means of crushing the weaklings compelled the local plant to cease operations and the property was sold. Today with the building remodeled for tenant rental is owned by Howard Robinson.

The year 1906 was another period of time for town improvements the first of which was the laying of a storm sewer which gave the town an excellent drainage system and which proved to be quite satisfactory until the system became overtaxed when put to use as a drainage for private homes. The second improvement was a town-wide building of concrete sidewalks by property owners in compliance with an ordinance enacted. When all were completed the town gained considerable distinction in the matter of good sidewalks, but time has wrought a change in the passing of years and as there is no clause in the ordinance relative to the upkeep of the walks there are many places about town where they have disappeared entirely or are in a

condition of disrepair as to become a hazard to pedestrians.

Probably the most important event to occur here during 1906 was the advent of the community's first automobile, a high-wheeled, cushion-tired car of buggy type that was owned and driven by Dr. Vincent who bore the envy of his fellows until Frank Galbraith entered upon the scene with a late model white Buick that stole the show and drove Doc's car off stage, but not for long however, for Doc soon returned with a like model in spotless white and the race was on until today more people of Sunman own automobiles than do homes.

The advent of the automobile and the necessity of experienced repairmen prompted William Pohlar to establish the first garage business here in the building formerly the John Weber blacksmith shop and later used by Richard Behlmer for a blacksmithing business.

With the year 1907 previously covered in regard to the banking and the telephone services that had been established here we will move on to 1908 which was marked by the arrival of Dr. Charles F. Fletcher, who soon after his graduation from the Louisville College of Medicine selected Sunman as a desirable location and in this the doctor did not err in judgment as he soon built up an extensive practice and today remains active in carrying on in his profession.

This year was also marked by the coming of Abner Rawling, a Weisburg saloonist, who after purchasing the saloon business conducted by Edward Cook in the cottage now adjoining the Mack Bros. garage, became established in a leaf tobacco market which soon caused Sunman to become a tobacco center where tons upon tons of fine grade burley were brought from over a wide area, packed in hogsheads and shipped to a Kentucky market.

In the following year of 1909, Henry Kammeyer, a lifelong farmer resident of Adams Township reopened the hardware store that had been closed for several years following the dissolution of the Busching & Beer partnership after which Mr. Busching had used the building for the operation of a produce business.

Advancing time to 1910 we find the name of Samuel Kirschner added to the town's business directory as a clothing merchant located in the building now remodeled and the home of Mrs. Mae Kramer. The store was later transferred to the building now occupied by the Osburn clothing store.

The year 1911 was another of marked activity in town improve-



Along the north side of Eastern Ave. in Sunman, where, in 1863 the ground now covered by these homes was then a forest in which Gen. Lew Wallace and two companies of Union soldiers were encamped for a week while on the trail of the Morgan Raiders.



One of the oldest homes in Sunman. But a two-room building in the late sixties, without porch or addition, it was the Anthony Wolter home wherein Mr. Wolter conducted the first barber business in the village. It is today the home of Joseph Kelley.



The central part of this structure is the original building erected by Messrs. Bennett and Holsmeier. As it stands today it is owned and occupied by the Ripley County Farm Bureau.



Monument in St. John's Cemetery at Penntown marking the graves of the five members of the Frank Wippel family who lost their lives in a train-auto crash at Sunman on the evening of June 15, 1927.



Sharps Corner Schoolhouse, not used for many years.



The "Old Brick Church" erected in Sunman in 1858. Served as the town's only house of worship and town hall until 1898. It was razed a few years later.

ments when, through the efforts and financial means of Joseph Kuebel there was another great stride made in the march of progress when the darkness of night was turned into the light of day by the throwing of a switch at the power plant of the Sunman Electric Light and Power Company in the building that is in use today as a heating plant and work shop by the Sunman Public Schools. In 1916 the plant was transferred to a room at the Galbraith & Son sawmill following its purchase by Messrs Galbraith where it remained in operation until 1928 when it was sold to the Dearborn-Ripley Light & Power Co. and in 1938 another change in ownership was made when the interests were acquired by the Public Service Company of Indiana, Inc.

This same year saw the coming of another resident physician, Dr. Wilbur Robinson, a native son of the township, who prior to his graduation from the Ohio Medical College had been a teacher in the Sunman Public Schools for a number of years.

During the following year the sixth and last increase thus far in building area was made by Walter Fitch whose addition of thirty-six lots is located in the northeastern part of town immediately to the rear of the Nieman and Kuebel additions. The lots were sold at public auction and even though all were sold to town and community residents those thirty-six years ago there are but three that have been used as sites for homes.

The only building activity carried on in 1913 was the erection by Lewis Sieg of a large two-story brick residence and store building that immediately became occupied by Samuel Kirschner as a home for his family and clothing business and which today is being utilized for the same purpose by Howard Osburn. While the year no doubt was looked upon with superstitious fears by some who desired to embark in business it held none for Mrs. William Dreyer who opened the first cream station here as a buyer for the J. A. Long Co. of Union City, Ind. and later for the Merchants Creamery Co. of Cincinnati. At present and for a number of years past this station under successful operation has a market with the French-Bauer Co. of Cincinnati. Another who cast aside all fears of the number 13 was Adam Boerstler who purchased the wagon making shop formerly owned and operated by the late Richard Behlmer.

The succeeding year 1914 was marked by the arrival of two young men from Milan whose names were added to the business

directory, the first being Maurice Neufarth who became established in a blacksmithing business which he is still carrying on in the shop he erected in the west end of town. The second was Arthur Baeuerlin who became established in a garage business in a building that stood upon the site now occupied by the Brunsman building. After several years Mr. Baeuerlin disposed of his interests to Ben Gilmore and he in turn to F. P. Higgin & Son. Mr. Baeuerlin later became established in a saloon business at another location in town in which he was later joined by his brother, Carl Baeuerlin.

This same year saw Lewis Sieg add another substantial business structure to the town by the erection of the building now owned and occupied by Gilbert Webster. The business rooms of this building during the years under various ownerships including Mr. Sieg, Edward Behlmer, Russell Dunbar, Norman Mendel and Mr. Webster were used for various business purposes including the Telephone Exchange, the Ahring lunch room, the Samms lunch room, beauty shoppes conducted by Agnes Wisel and Sarah Lauber, the Dr. Campbell dental offices, the Hallam typewriter service and barber shops that passed through frequent changes of ownership through the years by Guss Brunner, Oldham Holland, James Coyle, John Ahrens, Everett Conway, Walter Redington, Harvey Mosmeier and Paul Forthofer.

The year 1914 also saw the arrival of John Nedderman who purchased the Joe Kuebel property and warehouse interests.

In 1915 a large business structure was erected immediately to the west of what was then the Farmers National Bank building by John Meyer of Batesville as a place of business for the Sunman Home Outfitting Co., a branch of a hardware and furniture business he was then conducting in his home city. This branch business was conducted under the management of Quirin Walsman until 1922 when purchased by John J. Hoff the present owner.

Another addition to the business life of the town during this year was the establishment of a building material and contracting business by William Gutzwiller who after three years disposed of his interests when he entered into military service at the outbreak of World War I.

Other activities for the year 1915 included the transfer of Spades Lodge No. 669, Independent Order Odd Fellows to Sunman to become Sunman Lodge of the same number which held its meet-

ings in the same lodge hall that had been transferred from its site at Spades to a new location at Sunman.

While the transfer of this lodge hall was taking place an old landmark of Sunman was being removed by John Hashagen who after purchasing the Old Brick Church which had long since been condemned as unsafe for use, was tearing it down so as to use the material in the erection of the brick building that later was purchased by Elmer Feller for a residence and a bakery business.

The year 1915 also saw a change in the location of the postoffice and of the man in charge when after nearly nineteen years as postmaster at Sunman, William McMullen was succeeded by V. W. Bigney who received notice of his appointment on the day following receipt of the word that his son Mervin had met a tragic death in an accident at Indianapolis. Soon after the change the office was transferred to a room in the Bigney store building that had been used for some years as a barber shop. Last, but not in the least, for the year 1915 was the establishment of a dairy business by Allen Trautman on a farm immediately east of town from where he served a long list of customers for over a period of twenty three years.

Moving on to 1916 we find Clarence Miller established in a garage business in a large brick structure he had just completed on the northeast corner of Washington and Meridian Sts. which was later acquired by the Baeuerlin Bros. and again later by John Schwing, the present owner.

One of the outstanding business changes for the year was the transaction in which Galbraith & Son acquired from Joseph Kuebel the ownership of the Sunman Electric Light & Power Co. interests and the Sunman Cigar factory. The year also saw a change in Big Four station agents by the arrival of C. A. (Doc) Marlin from Weisburg as successor to Walter Brinkman who had been transferred to another agency after being in charge here since the retirement of the veteran agent, G. B. Ashton, several years before.

Following the departure, soon after the turn of the century, of Dr. Louis Squires, who had been a resident dentist here for some eight or ten years, the sufferers of molar aches had been without this service except for weekly visits by out-of-town dentists until 1917 when Dr. Wallace Campbell arrived from Batesville to become established in a permanent office here which was maintained until a

few years ago when he chose to locate elsewhere and as we write the town is again without this service.

Despite the presence of five fraternal organizations the year 1917 saw the beginning of a sixth when Red Wing Council No. 356, Degree of Pocahontas, an auxiliary of the Red Men, was instituted with Miss Myrtle Stille as the first presiding officer.

Although the year brought a halt to building activities which was not resumed for several years, this period of time however, was fraught with events that will forever remain in memory. The dark war-clouds that had been hanging low over European countries for three years had finally drifted across the Atlantic and while the leaders of our National affairs had done everything possible to avert the action it was decreed that this country upon which the peoples of the world had learned to look for leadership in ideals and morals, for fighting strength when great questions of right and wrong were to be settled, and for money and supplies when they found themselves in need, was an absolute necessity to the saving of the world's civilization.

In this case, after a careful consideration of her path of duty, the United States was not slow in responding to the call for assistance and gave freely of her choicest manhood, her money and her powers which helped to defeat a world enemy. Like to all others a portion of the work was shared by Adams Tp. and well did she fulfill all that was asked of her. Hardly had the closing words of President Wilson's war message to Congress been spoken on that eventful April 2, 1917, than her sons were leaving for recruiting stations and on to training camps in preparation for a work the scope and magnitude of which could not then be realized.

Although represented in practically every branch of the military by men who had enlisted during peace time the declaration of war was immediately followed by the volunteering of many Adams Township boys who felt that this manner of entering the service would be more creditable than to be drafted as preparations for conscription got under way but as all know there was no distinction made between a volunteer and a draftee.

The war was on and with half the boys engaged in the activities overseas while the other half was numbered with the reserve force in home training camps there began days of anxious waiting; days when with trembling hands and quivering lips the loved ones at

home watched for tidings from those who had "gone over" but the summer of 1917 rolled by and the winter had given way to another springtime before the citizens of the township were brought to a full realization of the real extent of the war when a message reached the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Diver bearing to them the shocking news that their son and only child, Corporal Kenneth Diver of Company D, 16th Infantry, had been killed in action on April 28, 1918, while serving his country in France, — the first soldier from Ripley County to make the supreme sacrifice on an European battlefield.

Then began the daily scanning of casualty lists as published in the newspapers with each list conveying its meaning of the price of war that was being paid by boys from outside our area until another five months had passed when Adams Township was again stricken by the shocking news that Coy Sunman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. W. Sunman of the Spades vicinity, a Private in Company M, 120th Infantry, had been killed in action on September 29, 1918, while participating in an engagement against the enemy in France.

While those two were the only boys from Adams Township who met death in overseas action the lives of three others; Clifford Pohlar, William Krummel and Theodore Reibel were given at home through illnesses contracted in training camps, a trio of sacrifices though made far from the fields of conflict were nevertheless just as honorable and heroic.

Two other boys who gave their lives in action while not residents of Adams Township, but close neighbors immediately across the line in Franklin Township, were Samuel Heisman and Christ Endres both of whom had been reared in close proximity to Sunman where they had attended public school and had participated in many of the activities about town.

While we have mentioned the dead we are not forgetful of the living who by their gallant conduct and unwavering courage, won not only distinction for themselves but brought honor to the communities they represented. Among them were: Corp. Andrew Irrgang of near Penntown, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by America, the British Distinguished Conduct Medal and the French Croix de Guerre; Private Frank Bruns of Sunman received two silver stars for citations and the French Fouraguerre and Privates Dave Wagner and Raymond Reutter of Morris each received citations for deeds of gallantry.

Last, but not in the least, were the folks at home whose activities were carried on as if by one great family of which each member had a special task or chore and did the job without complaint and in a most efficient manner. Their untiring labors in field and workshop, their observation of "wheatless" and "meatless days and "gasless" Sundays, their strict obedience of all government requests regarding the conservation of food, fuel and clothing and their generous response to all benefit drives each contributed to the success of those who went forth to bear arms in bringing to a close that awful scene across the Atlantic.

And then came that never-to-be-forgotten day, November 8, 1918, when the unverified report that an armistice had caused the cessation of hostilities was an occasion for the greatest demonstration of joy the community had ever experienced. Three days later the actual signing of the armistice was the signal for a second great demonstration but among the shouting, laughing celebrants were some with ashen faces whose tears of joy mingled with their tears of mourning for not all the boys who had left would be numbered with those coming home.

Following the end of hostilities the eighty-five boys who had survived the dangers and the hardships returned to their homes to be proudly welcomed by a grateful community and joyfully received by their loved ones whose fears and anxieties were ended. Their going had not been in vain as the wonderful crusade for the right had been successful and they were now ready to resume their places in civil life and share the untold happiness that their sacrifices had brought to oppressed peoples.

With the war at an end the town during the next two or three years underwent a number of business changes which placed business interests into the hands of younger men each of whom was well qualified to enter into the business world.

Among the first to be made was in 1919 when the E. R. Behlmer mercantile business was purchased by Harry Behlmer, a former Sunman boy who had been conducting a business at Napoleon for a number of years. Another saw the McMullen meat market purchased by Herbert Cooper who a few weeks later disposed of the interests to Walter Osburn and Hadley Trautman who entered into business under the firm name of Osburn & Trautman and who continue in the business. This same year saw the arrival of Edward and John Mc-

Namara, native sons of the Van Wedding vicinity who after some twenty years of practical experience in electrical and auto mechanics in Cincinnati, came to Sunman to become established in a garage and service station business which they are still conducting under the firm name of Mack Bros. Another for the year, and one which supplied a need to the town, was the establishment of a bakery business by Elmer Feller, a New Alsace boy who, after continuing the business for more than twenty years was compelled to cease his activities due to injuries received in an automobile accident in 1942.

The year of 1920 was crowded with business changes and other events that ranks it as one of the outstanding years in Sunman history. The first change in its business life came with the return to the old home town of Richard and Leonard Beer, two former Sunman boys, who had been away for some years. Upon arrival they purchased the grocery business then being conducted by Mrs. Lura Wetzler and also the Bielby hardware business, both of which were being carried on in the same building. Under the name of Beer Bros., a business was soon established that ranked among the leading in the county. This same year saw John Schwing, a Lawrenceburg boy, arrive here to embark in a saddlery business in the Hartman building wherein Valentine Hartman had conducted a like business over a long period of years to be followed later by Sebastian Ross and his son, John, the latter in later years having been engaged in a saloon business in connection with harness repairing. Others to select 1920 as a year for embarkation on business ventures were W. E. Howrey who opened a wagon repair shop, C. W. Morrow who started a tinning business, Roman Reibel and Clayton Anderson who, as partners under the firm name of Reibel & Anderson, opened a garage business in the blacksmith shop formerly used by Jacob Meister.

It was in the midst of all those activities and more that gave the citizens just cause to rejoice, that tragedy struck. While the crew of the Galbraith & Son sawmill were engaged in the raising of a large smokestack over the boiler that is now a part of the heating plant for the Sunman school building, an accident occurred that cost the lives of Samuel Wilshire and Edward G'ade, two of the crew members.

While the public schools of Sunman during the past twenty years had gone through the vicissitudes to which they had been subjected by the passing of various state

laws governing educational matters without experiencing any marked degree of progress, a determination not to be trailing any neighbors in the matter of education prompted the school town to provide more commodious quarters for its students in the form of a substantial and imposing new brick building that was erected during the year 1920 in the northern part of town. It afforded a place wherein some of the branches of higher education might be taught and the first year following its completion found a large enrollment of students eager to take advantage of the opportunity of continuing in the studies as offered by a two-year course of an accredited high school system.

With this splendid beginning the public soon realized that the high school was an indispensible part of the public school system and in addition to giving it a most hearty support some of the more interested exercised their influence by assisting school officials in their efforts toward securing a commission which was granted in 1925.

With each succeeding year showing a marked increase in enrollment the year 1927 found the board of trustees confronted with the problem of providing additional accommodations and when the need became generally known the public again rallied to the support of the project with the result that a large and imposing addition was erected in 1928.

Among the teachers who were employed here through the years since 1920 were: Irvin Blackmore, Herbert Anthony, Joseph Hill, Walter Wilson, Virgil Peebles, Joseph Haines, Robert Watt, A. M. Pender, Charles McBride, Harry Laswell, Glen Andrevs, Vella Johnson, Shirley Ader, Rosamund Walker, Louise Habenicht, Jesse Webster Todd, Julia Robinson Ward, Arnetta Sutherlin, Ruth Greenham, Olive Brinkman Stith, Josephine Busching, Dorothy Robinson, Holly Lange Brinkman, Mertie Hoffman, Gladys Behlmer McConnell, Thelma Ebel, Sylvia Miller Wonning, Margaret Castner, Forest Waters, Herman Royer, Paul McLain, Louis Jacob, Howard Adkins, Miss - - - Whitsell, Mary Ring Minneman, Lucille Brown, Mary Fisher Gaynor, Marie Nedderman Zimmerman, Alice Howe, Opal Wildman, Jane Walterhouse, Ione Hirschberger, Hilda Menchhofer, Laura Sink, Millard Sink, Ernest Slottag, John Rosenbaum, Abe McIntosh, Harold Rice, Fred Krampe, Leo Lentz, Asbury Elliott, Robert Gehlback, Elsie Suhre, Mary McCabe, Edwina Webster, Janice Wetzler, Meda Garrigues, Elenor

Krick and the present corps of teachers in this school year of 1948-'49: Rudolph Minneman, Ercel Kohlerman, Frank Mardis, John Benham, Thelma Scheivley, Ruth Portteous, Ada Jordan, Ann Ritenour, and Nellie Bolt.

The year 1921 began with another business change when the widely-known Bigney & Co. drug store passed into the ownership of Arthur Schene, a young man from Batesville who, after completing study at the Louisville College of Pharmacy had spent several years in Army service during World War I. After the change the business became known as the Sunman Drug Store which has continued to be the seat of an extensive business that had been established by Mr. Bigney and his associates along through the years until his appointment as postmaster in 1915.

This same year saw another addition to the town's business life by the arrival of Lewis Neukam and Jerome Doerflein from Franklin County, who, in a partnership as Neukam & Doerflein embarked in a mercantile business in the building that had been used for many years for a similar business by William Goldschmidt & Son. The partnership, however, was soon dissolved and Mr. Doerflein's interests purchased by Harry Neukam after which the business was conducted under the name of Neukam Bros. who later established a feed, implement and trucking business in connection with the store. Another business change during the year was the purchase of the R. A. Behlmer blacksmithing interests by Holman Laws of Aurora.

Although the various fraternal organizations at Sunman had been experiencing a slow but steady increase in membership there were others elsewhere that had been undergoing difficulties in maintaining an existence. Among them was Burns Lodge No. 55, F. & A. M. at Manchester, a village some nine miles to the southeast of town which during the year 1921 was consolidated with Sunman Lodge No. 590.

During this same year the organization of Kenneth L. Diver Post, No. 337, of the American Legion was effected and well was it named for one who so rightfully deserved the honor.

One of the first acts of the Post following organization was the promotion of a street carnival the proceeds of which were used in the purchasing of the Big Four Hall and grove, well known over a wide area as a mecca for the lovers of dancing. Within a few years however, the place ceased to attract the big crowds of former years

and today is used for an occasional dance and for the annual carnival sponsored by the Post each autumn.

While the year 1921 was filled with business changes and other activities of interest there were also scenes that were sad reminders of the price that was paid toward the maintenance of our country's honor when the Flag-draped caskets of martyred hero sons brought back from overseas were borne over the streets to final resting places in surrounding cemeteries where each was honored by a vast assemblage of friends whose hearts beat a silent requiem to the silvery notes of the bugle as it sounded the last farewell.

With advancing age creeping upon him to retard his activities as a contractor and builder which had extended over a period of more than two score of years, the year of 1922 found the business of Lewis Sieg placed in the control of his sons, Gilbert and Edward, in a partnership which after assuming the name of Lewis Sieg & Sons, immediately transferred the mill equipment from a building on the residence property south of town to a new mill structure in the heart of town wherein is located the office for their extensive business as dealers of building materials and fuel that is stored in three large warehouses located in other parts of town. Those interests in addition to many business buildings and residences erected by and through the finances of Mr. Sieg, ranked him for many years as the leading property holder in Sunman and a man who had been one of the principal factors in the town's growth. Could Mr. Sieg have remained a young man it is likely that a large part of the need of homes here would have been supplied.

Another business change for this year was the purchase of the Sunman Home Outfitting Co. interests by John J. Hoff.

The year 1922 saw another change of postmaster due to the vacancy caused by the death of V. W. Bigney which was supplied by the appointment of Miss Edith Wetzler to the position.

During the year 1923 the citizens of Sunman welcomed the arrival of Rev. and Mrs. Alfred Thomas who left their home in Missouri to take up a residence in Sunman where it was hoped to revive the religious interests which for some years had been on a gradual decline until dreams of a churchless town finally awakened some of her people to a realization of what the future might be if such was permitted to occur.

The arrival of Rev. Thomas was followed by the organization of a

Community Church Society but which later proved to be merely a reorganization of the Christian Union Society that had been established here years before.

The next move of those interested was the organization of a Christian Endeavor Society which with an enrollment of sixty-four members presented interesting programs weekly that were attended by large audience. Another valuable asset to the church at this time was the organization of a church orchestra that soon became quite instrumental in creating an added interest to the work that Rev. Thomas and his associates were carrying forward. The orchestra was also recognized as an asset to the community in general as its services became more and more in demand.

In addition to those mentioned was the Sunday School, a Union school of religious education that had been conducted here every Sunday morning for over forty years and had never been under the control of any denominational sect or creed.

With the whole combined as an incentive an interest was created that reached far beyond all expectations and the following year the citizens of the community displayed their loyalty to the cause by leading assistance in every manner possible toward the erection of a parsonage on the church property for the accommodation of Rev. and Mrs. Thomas and for all pastors and their families who would come after. We might add that Rev. Thomas was the first minister to become a resident of Sunman over a period of more than twenty years.

The last we mention, but far from being the least when service to the church and to the community is considered, was the Ladies Aid Society whose members by strict adherence to duty and harmonious work was quite responsible for the cancellation of the parsonage indebtedness and for other valuable services that can better be described by the following lines:

The old church bell had long been cracked,
Its call was but a groan;
It seemed to sound a funeral knell
With every broken tone.
"We need a bell," the brethren said,
But taxes must be paid;
We have no money we can spare,
Just ask the Ladies Aid.
The shingles on the roof were old;
The rain came down in rills;
The brethren slowly shook their heads
And read the monthly bills.
The chairman of the board arose
And said, "I am afraid
That we shall have to lay the case

Before the ladies Aid."

The preacher's salary was behind;
The poor man blushed to meet
The grocer and the butcher as
They passed him on the street.
But nobly spoke the brethren then:
"Pastor, you shall be paid,
We'll call upon the treasurer
Of our good Ladies Aid."

"Oh," said the men, "the way to
heav'n

Is long and hard and steep,
With slopes of ease on either side
The path is hard to keep.
We cannot climb the heights alone.
Our hearts are sore dismayed;
We ne'er shall get to heaven at all
Without the Ladies Aid."

What has been said of our own can well be applied to the Aid Societies at Penntown and Spades and the Ladies Sodalities at St. Nicholas and Morris. These societies whose combined work as one vast family of mothers, banded together for one common purpose, have wrought a wonderful result.

The year 1924 saw two new business additions with the establishment of a garage business by Harry Zimmerman upon the site that is now occupied by the new and modern building where he continues his business and the opening of a restaurant by Leo Feller in a building that stood upon a portion of the ground now occupied by the Zimmerman garage. A business change during the year was the transfer of the John Nedderman feed business to his son Roy Nedderman, the present owner.

Prior to 1925 the citizens of Sunman were compelled to protect their properties against fire with the aid of an ancient type of hand-power fire engine that was augmented by bucket brigades all of which was quite effective provided the flames had not gained much headway but with the danger of fire being ever on the increase by the increasing use of gasoline and other combustible materials the town board of trustees purchased a new fire truck that was fully equipped with modern fire-fighting devices. This was followed by the organization of a competent volunteer fire department whose services were not called upon until several years later when fire broke out in a barn on the Osburn & Trautman property in the center of town. Although the flames had gained considerable headway before discovery the firemen acquitted themselves with credit and also proved the worth of their equipment by quenching the fire in short order.

This same year also saw the coming of James Coyle who purchased the barber business that had been established just a short time before by Oldham Holland in a room in what is now the Webster



Part of Troop No. 30, Sunman Boy Scouts, taken at Lake Rudy, 1947. Left to right: Donald Hofmockel, Rudolph Webster, Rex Stith, Joe Fritsch, Cyrus Thompson, Paul Nedderman, Elwin Abplanalp, Henry Freyer and Bob Freyer.



"Herman's Town Exchange" erected at St. Nicholas in 1840. The lettering on the sign is in German script. The name of the original owner could not be learned but the building was used through the years as a home, general store, saloon, trading post and recreational hall. Owners and occupants during later years were: George Schutter, George Luther and a Mr. Thieman. The building was razed in 1948 by the last owner, Anthony Gindling.



Terry's Schoolhouse, long unused for school purposes.



Penntown Schoolhouse which has been out of use for a school for a number of years.



Rear view of St. Anthony's Catholic Church and Cemetery at Morris. The church was erected in 1885 to replace a stone structure that had been built in 1856.

Building. This transaction proved to be the first of many changes in barber shop ownerships along through the succeeding years as hardly a year had passed when Mr. Coyle sold his interests to Harvey Mosmeier and he a year later to John Ahrens. Soon after acquiring the Mosmeier shop, Mr. Ahrens purchased the Guss Brunner barber business in an adjoining room and the change of ownership was there carried on as Mr. Ahrens sold to Everett Conway and Mr. Conway to Walter Redington and Mr. Redington to Harvey Mosmeier who had returned to Sunman after several years of barbecuing at Aurora. Within a few years Mr. Coyle returned to Sunman and later entered into a partnership with Mr. Mosmeier. After several years the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Coyle entered into business in another part of town which he later disposed of when he left town for a farm residence near Napoleon in 1945. A partnership was then entered upon by Mr. Mosmeier and Paul Forthofer which still exists as they conduct the business in a room in the old New Comers building.

The year 1926 with an ever increasing demand for gasoline, brought with it the erection by the Standard Oil Co. of a building and storage tanks in the western part of town that was placed in charge of Edward Schuck as manager and distributor who, after meeting death in an accident a year later, was succeeded by Noble Robbins. Others who carried on the business in later years were: Gerald Reed, Forest Waters and Robert Miller working together, Adam Huber and lastly the present manager, Raymond Brownfield who succeeded Mr. Huber in 1941.

The year 1927 was another of marked improvement both in public and private property that contributed greatly toward convincing the stranger that the citizens of Sunman were imbued with the spirit of progressiveness.

In addition to starting work of erection of the new addition to the school building the year also saw the completion of the Mendel & Kammeyer garage, a large modern structure on North Meridian St. wherein Norman Mendel and Charles Kammeyer became established in a repair and service station business.

Although the number of automobiles had made a most remarkable increase during the twenty years since the first had made its appearance here and the completion of an improved state highway was affording an excellent roadway over which hundreds of cars were passing daily in a seemingly

endless chain of traffic the citizens of Sunman had thus far been spared the pain of being witness to scenes occasioned by serious accidents until near the end of March of this year 1927 when Edward Schuck, manager of the Standard Oil Co. interests at the Pearl St. crossing which caused his death a week later. This accident, as learned with the passing of time, was the first of others to follow during the year which later marked the year 1927 as being outstanding in automobile fatalities in which Adams Township citizens were the victims all of which awakened the survivors to a realization of the uncertainty of life and the sureness of death.

Hardly had sufficient time elapsed to permit our people to recover from the shock of the first accident when a few months later on the evening of June 15 there occurred the most terrible tragedy ever to occur here when a train-auto crash at the Meridian St. crossing cost the lives of Frank Wipple, his wife, Mary, their daughter, Romilda and their two sons, Melvin and Wilson all of whom were hurled into eternity when their car was struck by one of the Big Four's fast trains, the Knickerbocker Special. Farm residents of the vicinity immediately to the north of Sunman where Mr. Wipple also conducted the affairs of the office of Township Trustee, the shock to their many surviving friends cannot be described. The mass funeral conducted at St. John's Evangelical Church at Penntown was the occasion for the largest gathering of people ever assembled within the township as a seemingly endless line of approximately five thousand people passed before the five pearl-gray caskets that contained all that was mortal of this once happy but ill-fated family whose lives had been sacrificed upon the altar of Fast America.

Another two months had passed and again there came the shocking news of an auto accident near Greensburg in which one of Sunman's veteran physicians, Dr. Christ Neufarth received injuries that resulted in his death a few days later. Then for the fourth time within the year the people of the township were called upon to mourn the passing of another citizen or rather former citizen, Miss met death in an auto accident Susan Stahley of Penntown who which occurred a few miles south of Sunman on Christmas morning.

Even though there were four garages and service stations in operation at various places in town there presence did not deter Harry Neukam from opening the fifth after purchasing the brick

building which was formerly the J. H. Nieman hardware store which he had remodeled into a modern garage building.

Moving on into 1928 we find the Mendel & Kammeyer garage business passing into the ownership of the Schmidt Bros., Tony and Gus who had returned to their old home community at Clinton School just a short time before after spending some years in Colorado. This was also the year, as previously mentioned, when the firm of Lewis Sieg & Sons was established.

This year also saw the completion of the new addition to the school building which was dedicated with fitting ceremony just a month before the opening of the '28 - '29 school year.

Soon after the advent of 1929 Sunman suffered a serious loss in the death of Rev. Alfred Thomas, who during his five years as pastor of the Sunman Community Church had accomplished much in bringing about a great revival in the religious life of the town. Soon after his passing a call was sent forth for a successor to which a response was made by Rev. David Warner of Pennsylvania who, with Mrs. Warner, arrived here a few months later to carry on the unfinished work of the departed pastor. Immediately upon the arrival of Rev. Warner a reorganization of the church society was made whereby all remaining ties of any denominational character were broken, the church property that had been under the control of the Christian Union society for many years was transferred to the board of trustees of the Community Church Society newly organized as a nondenominational group of church workers who immediately began work of improvement of the property outstanding of which was a remodeling of the church building which was completed the following year.

Two business changes occurred for the Standard Oil Company and George Hillman purchased the Holover as manager and deliveryman in 1931 when Adam Huber took man Laws blacksmithing interests.

The following year 1932 saw the establishment of another service station in a new building erected by John H. Hoff in the southern part of town. After fifteen years since the disbandment of the old Sunman Brass Band that had been in existence over a period of some eighteen years a new band known as the Sunman Concert Band was organized in this year of 1932 with a membership of twenty-eight under the leadership of James Champ of Aurora. The band was a success for several years and then finally

went the way usually taken by all small town bands.

The year 1933 with depreciation of bond accounts, depreciation of real estate values and world wide conditions making it difficult for many borrowers to meet their obligations found many of the banks throughout the country unable to carry on business. The two banks in Sunman, the Sunman State Bank and the Farmers National Bank, struggling valiantly to weather the storm, were finally compelled to go into voluntary liquidation which was immediately followed by a movement toward the organization of a new banking institution. Committees went into action soliciting stock subscriptions with the result that a new bank was organized with one hundred seventy share holders owning the capital of \$42,000 and on October 16, of that year of 1933 the Peoples Bank and Trust Co. was formally opened for business in the building that had been the home of the Farmers National. With Jacob Berg occupying the position of President, Russell Dunbar, a former employee of the Ripley County Bank at Osgood, as Cashier and John Beer, a former member of The Sunman State Bank's working staff, as Ass't Cashier, the scene on the first day of opening was one of tremendous activity as the new cashier and his assistant accepted deposits, cashed checks, filled out signature cards, collected taxes and answered questions and in general took care of all banking needs of a community that had formerly been served by two banks, while the new president, Mr. Berg was kept busy signing stock certificates and introducing patrons to the new cashier. Other members of the board of directors of this bank were: Paul Day, Harry Behlmer, John Knueven, Gilbert Sieg, Clarence Grossman, George Gutzwiler, Roy Nederman, Ben Boggess, Norbert Hartman and Lewis Bruns.

The growth of the new bank was rapid from the beginning. With working out sets of records for the information and convenience of the patrons and the working out of filing systems to make banking service more efficient the first year of the Peoples Bank & Trust Co. was a very busy and most successful one.

Other activities for the year included the forming of the partnership of Cook & Hashagen, funeral directors, by Howard Cook and John Hashagen and the opening of a Clover Farm grocery by Enoch N. Brindley that a short time later was purchased by Stanley Kendall who was followed in ownership by Harold Gorman and he

a short time later by Frank Wiesehan who moved the business from the building now occupied by the Sunman Swap Shop in the north end of town to the E. R. Behlmer building now occupied by the present Clover Farm store.

During the year 1934 the citizens welcomed the arrival of Dr. William McConnell from Indianapolis to become a resident physician as a successor to the late Dr. Wibur Robinson whom death had removed early in that year.

A business change for the year or rather a cessation of business was the closing out of his mercantile stock by Harry Behlmer after fifteen years of activity as a Sunman merchant.

Moving on into 1935 we find among business changes the sale of the Redington barbershop to Harvey Mosmeier, Russell Schuck acquiring from his father, John Schuck, the ownership and management of the Schuck Hotel, and John Westrick purchasing the Michael Schneider saloon interests.

During this year an old landmark was removed when fire destroyed the George Hillman blacksmith shop mentioned several times in preceding chapters of this history. The residence of the Walter Osburn family adjoining the shop was considerably damaged. In addition to this loss the town was the scene of tragedy as fourteen year old Nolan Schuck met death in an automobile accident.

Two business changes in 1936 involved the purchase of the Mendel and Kammerer garage business by Bernard Stith and the sale of the Nieman flour mill property to John Weber Sr. of Brookville who re-established the flour milling industry that had been idle for several years. The mill property had been in the possession of the Nieman family over a period of some sixty years and Estal Nieman who ceased operation of the industry had been of the third generation to assume management.

This year also saw the arrival of Rev. Charles White to assume the pastorate of the Sunman Community Church as successor to Rev. David Warner whose resignation to enter into retirement had created a vacancy.

The year 1937 was fraught with events which began with the record-breaking flood in mid January which caused considerable activity in Sunman when the town became a temporary or emergency railway terminal, the headquarters of the Indiana National Guard, a collection center for the American Red Cross and a temporary home for flood refugees.

Business changes during the year included the purchase of the

Neukam Feed & Implement business by Ray Jones and the opening of a grocery business by Ernest Howrey in the Behlmer store building. A change in postmasters was also made with the appointment of Harry Behlmer as successor to Henry Price who after filling the position for a brief time following his appointment in 1936 was compelled to resign because of ill health.

Tragedy too, was present, with the death by his own hand, of Ben Mantz, the second suicide to occur here in the history of the town, the first being that of a Mrs. Clark in the early days of Sunman. It might be mentioned here that Sunman has never been the scene of a murder.

The following year, 1938, was another of many events and activities, the first being one that brought much joy to basketball fans when, after completing the regular schedule of the season with an excellent record which gave them top position in the County Standing although losing the County Tourney 35-33 in an overtime contest with the Holton Warhorses, the Tigers won the Sectional Tournament by defeating Cross Plains 52-28 in the first game, the Napoleon team 45-37 in the second and Osgood 23-22 in the final. In the first of the Regional play a week later they lost to Rushville 37-16. The members of the squad under the coaching of Lewis Jacob, were: William Drockelman, Boyd Schuck, Charles Fritsch, Francis Federle, Lee Readt, Robert Gunther, Stanley Clemenz, Donald Freyer, Quinten Osburn, Kenneth Wiesehan; Charles Creech, Student Manager.

Another important change for the year was the transfer of the postoffice from the Schene building to its present location in what was formerly the State Bank building.

In August of this same year the town received its second new fire truck to replace the one that had been in use over a period of thirteen years and in the following November the new pumper was taken to its first scene of fire that followed a terrific explosion of gas which tore asunder the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Holzbacher, located in the near center of town and inflicted fatal injuries to both the husband and wife. The fire that followed was soon extinguished. A month later the department responded to a call from the Galbraith farm on the eastern outskirts of town where a large barn and all its contents including several horses and a number of cattle, was completely consumed as the fire was beyond all control when discovered.

An improvement for the year was the erection of a new home by the members of Kenneth L. Diver Post of the American Legion, on property owned by the Post on the eastern outskirts of town that was formerly known as the Big Four Grove.

A new business added during this same period of time was the opening of a printery by Allen Hallam at the Hallam farm immediately west of town from where it was removed a year later to a room in town. The only business change made was the sale of the John H. Hoff oil station in the south part of town to George Copeland of Osgood.

The year 1939 saw the arrival of four newcomers who came here to embark in business and to establish homes. They were: Mrs. Edna Craig (now Mrs. Meredith Gunter) who arrived from East Enterprise and purchased the Clover Farm store interests from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wiesehan who but a short time before had transferred their stock of goods from a building in the northern part of town to the store's present location. Peter Berger, coming from Lawrenceville, became established in a cream station business; Gilbert Webster, from Osgood, opened a hardware store in the building vacated by the Wiesehans and Al Brunsman, from St. Nicholas, purchased the Jones Feed & Implement interests.

In 1940 three business changes involved the purchase of the James Coyle barber interests by Harvey Mosmeier; the purchase of the Bernard Stith garage interests by Clarence Osburn and the purchase of the John Westrick cafe by Roy (Primer) Hoff.

This year also welcomed the arrival of Rev. Robert F. Hamm from Dillsboro, Ind. as pastor of the Sunman Community Church and successor to Rev. Charles White who had resigned to accept a pastorate elsewhere. It also saw a change made in the fraternal life of the town as Sunman Lodge, I. O. O. F. moved its membership to become consolidated with Milan Lodge.

While the only change made in business interests here in 1941 was Raymond Brownfield becoming local manager and distributor for the Standard Oil Co. to succeed Adam Huber, the people saw several organizations come into existence which were to mean much in worthwhile ways through the years that followed. The first to be organized was the banding together of some thirty-five or forty business men into a group known as the Sunman Business Men's Club for the purpose of rendering a better service

toward the welfare of the town and the community. With Leonard Beer serving as its first president, the Club soon became recognized as a real asset as it made its presence known in various ways.

Another organization for the year that proved to be an asset to the town and the community was a Boy Scout Troop. This, however, was a reorganization of a Troop that had a beginning back in 1937 under the leadership of Earl Shirling as Scoutmaster and which was disbanded several years later after Mr. Shirling left Sunman to become established in a home elsewhere. The reorganized Troop placed in charge of the author of this history got off to a fine start with a charter membership of eighteen and while that number changed at various times along the trail of years the Troop has always been active.

As the year 1941 was drawing to a close and our people were looking forward to a happy holiday season, there came a shock that rocked the world when, on December 7th the Japs struck a dastardly blow at Pearl Harbor, an act that plunged our nation into a war with Japan that was followed a few days later with a declaration of war against Germany.

World War II was on and the people of Adams Township, although somewhat dazed by the sudden turn of events, soon rallied to lend every assistance possible to bring hostilities to a hurried end which time proved was not to be as weeks passed into months and months into years. Response to every governmental request was promptly and nobly made. In addition to sending ninety-eight of their sons and daughters into practically every branch of military service, the people of Adams Township backed them to the fullest extent in every manner possible, and particularly in the buying of War Bonds, the sales of which totaled \$386,430.75 for Adams Township and \$943,860.25 for the town of Sunman, both being far in excess of their quotas.

The same can be said of their contributions to the Red Cross which totaled \$1,581.25 for the township and \$2,771.25 for the town which was also in excess of the quotas. Their observances of food and gas rationings were in close accordance with governmental desires and contributions to the various collections of scrap materials of vital need in carrying on the war were far in excess of the expectations of those conducting the collections.

During the following year the people of Sunman were called upon

to witness disaster and tragedy upon three occasions in a period of less than two months. The first occurred on the evening of May 16th when the fire alarm and the bright glow of flames attracted a large crowd to the Galbraith sawmill in the western part of town where hundreds watched Sunman's main industrial plant reduced to a heap of smoldering ruins. While the loss to the owner was great and had followed close upon a previous loss by fire, his courage was not daunted for ere the ruins had cooled his mill employees were at work clearing away the debris to make way for a larger and more modern mill that was completed and in operation before the end of the year.

A few weeks later, on the evening of May 30th, an automobile accident a short distance to the east of town, claimed the lives of Eugene Feller, a Sunman lad and his aunt, Mrs. Mary Bittner of Indianapolis. On the evening of July 3rd tragedy again struck as Jerome Back, a St. Peter's lad, met death by drowning in the railroad pond just east of Sunman.

The only business change for the year was the dissolution of the Hashagen and Cook partnership as funeral directors in which Howard Cook became the sole owner of the business.

Soon after the advent of the year 1943 the Sunman Business Men's Club was discontinued following the organization of the Sunman Lions Club which came into existence with a charter membership of forty-five from which the following officers were selected: Pres. Forest Waters; 1st Vice Pres. Russell Dunbar; 2nd Vice Pres. Paul Day; 3rd Vice Pres. Howard Osburn; Sec. John Gaynor; Treas. Robert Miller; Lion Tamer Rudolph Minneman; Tail Twister Howard Cook; Directors Harry Behlmer, Henry Price, Harry Zimmerman and Meredith Gunter.

Another organization coming into existence early in the year was Unit No. 71, Mothers of World War II, chartered on March 30th with the following officers and members: Pres. Edna Osburn; 1st Vice Pres. Cecelia Retzner; 2nd Vice Pres. Luella Howrey; Sec. Katherine Bruns; Treas. Myrtle Stahle; Members Mary Wuest, Rosina Gindling, Catheryn Schuck, Antoinette Forthofer and Ruby Hess. Within a short time the organization numbered twenty-four members and until the end of the war when it was disbanded the mothers carried out the purpose of the organization to the fullest extent. Their own sons, other mothers' sons and sons whose mothers had passed on spent happy and restful

hours in camps and hospitals that would not have been theirs had there been no War Mothers organization. Cards, letters, gifts all helped to lighten the burden of training and ease the pain of illness or injury. Outstanding among the mothers of Unit 71 in the matter of sons in the service, was Mrs. James (Ruby) Hess with five sons, a son-in-law and a daughter-in-law scattered about the world with Uncle Sam's fighting forces. In addition to these mentioned, Mrs. Hess had lost a brother, Coy Sunman, in World War I.

Another event for the year was the unveiling of a Community Honor Roll Board bearing the names of two hundred twenty young men and young women who had gone forth from the trading area of Sunman to enter all branches of the military in all parts of the world. As the war carried on other names were added for a total of two hundred ninety at the end. Seven whose names appeared did not return in life. The large board erected by Kenneth L. Diver Post of the American Legion and Troop 30, Boy Scouts of America, occupied a prominent place in the business heart of town where it remained until long after the war's end.

No business change was made other than the purchase of the Odd Fellows Lodge building by Ojibwa Tribe of the Improved Order of Red Men.

During the year the people underwent several unusual changes in weather conditions the most marked being in February when on the 9th a maximum temperature of 68 degrees in the shade was registered followed seven days later by a drop to 6 degrees below zero.

This changeable mood of the weatherman was carried into 1944 when he gave us a temperature of 70 degrees on January 27 and then dropped to 8 degrees below zero on February 13. On June 20 there was a low of 55 degrees and a week later a sweltering heat of 102 degrees in the shade was registered. A drop to 45 degrees was recorded on August 27.

The year was but a few months old when the hopes and desires of Otto Weber to reach the hundredth milestone in his journey of life that was but a few feet ahead, were not realized when death claimed him at the age of 99 years, 7 months and 23 days, an age never before reached by any resident of Adams Township.

During this year another change was made in pastors at the Sunman Community Church when the vacancy left by the resignation of Rev. Robert Hamm was supplied by the arrival of Rev. John Wrenn

from Louisville, Ky., the present pastor.

Tragedy struck twice within the year with death claiming the life of 16 year old Camille Putman of Spades, in an auto accident a few miles south of Sunman on August 24 and two months later that of 58 year old Frank Galbraith, the towns leading industrialist, whose death by his own hand was the third suicide to occur in the town's history.

Several months after the death of Mr. Galbraith his sawmill interests were purchased by the Westpiser Bros. of Indianapolis who continued operation of the mill until sold to the Bacon Lumber Company of which mention will be made.

The opening of a clothing store near the end of the year by Howard Osburn in the building formerly occupied by the Kirschner Clothing store, supplied a great need that had been felt by the people for several years due to the Kirschners discontinuing business.

Passing on into 1945 we find the Ripley County Farm Bureau opening a branch station in the flour mill building formerly owned by the Niemans and later by John Weber from whom the property was purchased.

Several other business changes involved the purchase of the Lewis Neukam mercantile business and property by Henry Rose of Detroit, Michigan and the purchase of the Schuck Hotel property by Roy Hoff. The sale of this property and business removed it from the ownership of a family in whose hands it had remained until the third generation since the erection of the building and the establishment of the business by George Price in 1886.

The year also saw the addition of another industry with the arrival of the Chickasaw Heading mill from Tennessee which, after being in operation in a small building to the north of town for some time was moved to larger quarters in the western part of town where a goodly number were employed over a period of a year when it was removed to a new location elsewhere in the state.

This was another good year for basketball as the Sunman High School Tigers took over the County Championship by defeating Osgood, Holton and Milan in the order named.

Among business changes made here in 1946 was the purchase of the Harry Neukam garage by Theodore Creech of Baltimore, Md. who, a few months later sold his interests to the Pennington Bros. of Harrison, Ohio. Another was the

purchase of the Westpiser sawmill by the Bacon Lumber Co. of Chicago, Ill., who immediately began extensive improvements toward making the mill one of the largest and most modern in the Middle West. Several new business ventures included the opening of a home furnishing establishment by Adam Huber in a new building erected by John Schwing and the opening of a pool room by Sidney Fields in the Schwing Garage building.

The year did not pass without tragedy which came in the twinkling of an eye when in the early evening of May 27 a truck-train crash at the Meridian St. crossing of the railroad resulted in the instant death of Michael, the young son of Mr. and Mrs. Emery Durbin and serious injuries to Mrs. Durbin.

The year 1947 was another of business changes and new ventures which included the sale of the Sunman Print Shop by Allen Hallam to Walter Beebe of Milan who a short time later transferred all equipment to Cincinnati; the sale of the Fields pool room to George Miley; the opening of a Swap Shop business by James Hallam; the opening of an Electrical Appliances business by the McCool Bros. and the establishment of a shoe repairing business by Miss June Webster. Another to embark in business was Dan Smith who purchased the garage and filling station formerly owned by the Pennington Bros.

The last to be mentioned but far from being the least in town improvement was the remodeling of the late C. A. Marlin property, formerly the V. M. Bigney residence, into a modern funeral home by Howard Cook, Sunman funeral director.

It was near the end of the year when the people of Sunman and over a wide surrounding area were shocked to the utmost as the cruel hand of Death struck down Paul Day, veteran rural mail carrier of Sunman who suffered fatal injuries in an automobile accident occurring in neighboring Decatur County.

Coming now to 1948, the last year of which we write, we find other changes in business ownership and more new business ventures. Among the changes were the sale of the shoe repairing business conducted by June Webster to Elmer Lewis of Weisburg, the Franklin filling station business to Shular Childress of Bethel, Ohio, the Kratzer Cleaning and Pressing business to Dallas Lattire, a Sunman boy. New ventures included the opening of a grocery business by the Knueven Bros. of New Alsace and the establishment of a hardware and implement business by the Selke Bros. of Sunman. The year



St. Stephens Evangelical Lutheran Church at Spades. Erected in 1924 to replace the old building that was destroyed by fire earlier in the year that had been erected in 1897 to replace a log building built in 1843.



Grain cradle in the hands of Henry Grose of Sunman. Taken at the Mike Stahley home at Penntown, owner.



Sunman Community Church after remodeling in 1930.



The Morris Flour and Feed Mill owned and operated by the Nordmeyer Bros.



Old Brick Tavern at Penntown as it is today.

also saw the organization of the Sunman Business Club with Allen Hallam as Pres., John Schwing, Vice Pres., Meredith Gunter, Sec., and Dallar Lattire, Treas.

While the town escaped any loss by fire and its citizens were spared the sight of tragic accident they did not escape the shock that tragedy brings when the life of Nathan Hillman, manager of the Sunman Branch of the Naas Corp. canning industry, was taken in an automobile accident occurring in neighboring Decatur County and later in the death of John J. Hoff, another of the town's business men, whose life was taken by his own hand.

Passing on to the other villages and communities in the township for a final visit, we arrive at Spades and as we look back over the village since the turn of the century we do not find conditions as they were during the years of the Enterprise Bracket Company and the T. W. W. Sunman sawmill. As those two industries were discontinued and none others arrived to supply employment to the men and women made idle it is but natural that the population decreased as they went elsewhere to secure work and with them went a large amount of business.

In later years the advent of motor transportation with improved highways proved to be death warrants for many of the smaller railroad towns as shipping centers and again Spades suffered when railway facilities were removed from the village and the station discontinued. Serving here as agents following the death of the veteran, Charles Wiesehan were: August Franke, Robert McKay and Dolph Abbott.

Following the stoppage of industry the two saloonists, Jacob Behr and Joseph Schmaltz finally quit business and located elsewhere and for the same reason the once flourishing Odd Fellows Lodge transferred its hall to a site in Sunman.

The only business being carried on at Spades today is a trucking business by Fred Kelch and a general store and huckster business by Quirin Ertel & Sons, successors to Joseph Huser, former owner, whose death occurred soon acquiring the business from August Franke. Mr. Ertel also served as postmaster for a number of years until succeeded in 1922 by Mrs. Howard Robinson whose retirement in the not too far distant future is to be followed by the closing of the office that is now serving but few patrons since rural free delivery service from this office was transferred early in the year.

The brick school building locat-

ed to the north of the village is the last of the township's schools still open and which has served as a seat of learning for the boys and girls of the Spades area over a period of sixty years. Among the teachers who served this school were: William Peters, John Minger, John Wortman, Henry Terry, Lillian Taylor, Grace Ashton, Dirce Freeland, Edward Retzner, Zahner Wulber, Mrs. Michael, Josephine Busching, Ethel Palmer, Nellie Hazen, Isabelle Dupps, and the present teachers, Margaret Hazen and Annabelle Schneider.

A short distance to the north of the schoolhouse is St. Stephens Evangelical Lutheran Church, a beautiful frame building of modern construction that stands as a fitting monument to the members of the congregation and to their friends of other denominations who arose to provide the need of a new church structure to replace the old that was destroyed by fire in 1924.

The rows of mounds and grave stones in the rapidly filling cemetery on the opposite side of the road is mute evidence as to the reason for a decrease in membership and for the closing of a once active Sunday school. Bi-weekly church services are now being conducted by Rev. M. P. Englehardt of Batesville. Among pastors to serve here before him who have not been previously mentioned were: Revs. Shipman, Fernschild, Arndt, Ahrends, Aden, and Bendrat.

Similar conditions exist at Penntown, the oldest of the township's villages, which, before the building of the railroad that traversed the township some two miles to the south and before the founding of the town of Sunman, gave promise of becoming the township's metropolis. Even though situated at the intersection of two State highways there is none of that traffic that passes through the village with the result that much of the business of years gone by is being taken elsewhere. Gone are the dancehall days and the political rallies that drew large crowds to Penntown on numerous occasions during the horse and buggy days that now exist only in the memory of a few.

Hushed is the clang of the school bell that has given way to the honk of the school bus horn as it arrives to transport the youngsters to other schools miles away. The little red brick schoolhouse stands unused in the midst of a playground where the absence of romping, laughing children is more evidence that the march of progress is slowly and surely erasing many of our villages from the country's map.

Some of the teachers here in later years were: William Ferris, Edward Taylor, Charles Clifton, Grace Hendrixson, Jenny Gillmore, Tora Ward, Hazel Bielby, Glenna Beer, Dorothy Robinson, Nellie Hazen, William Rhoads, Ralph Wulber and Annabelle Schneider.

Today in a cluster of some eighteen or twenty homes the business places include a grocery and auto accessories business being conducted by Mrs. John Mosmeier and her son Edwin; the "Old Brick Tavern" wherein E. Spechthold is conducting a grocery and tavern business that had been operated by Leo Betz over a period of seventeen years until purchased by the present owner in 1946. A filling station business is being conducted by Gilmore Ehlers at the intersection of the two highways.

In the midst of the village stands an old landmark, a little red brick church erected in 1865 by a Baptist society that was disbanded in 1912. In later years occasional services were held by various religious sects until recent years when it has stood unused, — a monument to those, who once active in church affairs are now sleeping within its shadows.

Here also nearby is the property of St. Johns Evangelical Reformed Lutheran congregation which includes a beautiful and modern house of worship, parsonage, parish hall and a well-kept cemetery wherein are the graves of many, who while living, helped to make possible the many things the congregation of today now enjoys. Among the pastors to serve here since the Rev. Bohnenkamper, the last to be mentioned on a preceding page, were: Revs. Weber, Hillman, Stroehlein, Schoepfle, and the present pastor, Rev. Kalkbrenner. At this time the congregation numbers one hundred sixty members, church affairs are in good condition and aided in their worthy cause by an active Sunday school.

At Morris we find but little change in business activities, a few changes in business ownership and the closing of the public school that was discontinued in 1943. While the rerouting of Highway 46 to skirt the village on the north may have had some effect on business here there was not an amount of decrease as to cause Morris to lose its postoffice nor railroad facilities.

The death in 1942 of John Zillebuehler, removed from Morris and from Adams Township a leading citizen who had conducted a mercantile business here for forty-four years, had served as postmaster over a period of twenty-six years and as township trustee for several terms. The property today is

owned by Robert Noelker whose store business is being managed by Mrs. Harry Volz who is also serving as postmistress.

Other business enterprises located here are: Charles Bramlage, general merchandise; Nordemeyer Bros., flour feed mill; Peter Bedel, soft drinks, shoe repairing and filling station; George Siefert, hardware and filling station; Ralph Goldschmidt (Satin Gold) tavern; Ted Schuck (Ted's Place) tavern; Robert Reister, sawmilling; Francis Bartling, poultry; A. Wassman, plumbing; Frank Grukenmeyer, watch repairing.

At the railroad depot we find things practically unchanged except in the matter of agents who have been in charge since the death of the veteran, Charles Goldschmidt in 1913 whose successors along the years have been: Clyde Reed, Robert Reister, Charles Winkler and the present agent, Arthur Hemke.

A long time businessman of Morris was Peter Andres (Pete Butch) who was engaged in a butcher business for many years and for a time in later years was associated with Joseph Kuebel and Maurice Volz in a cattle buying business.

Due to the close proximity of Batesville and its hospital and the fine roads and telephone service the village has no resident physician but in earlier years Dr. J. T. Ratcliff carried on an extensive practice here until his death which was followed by the arrival of Dr. Charles Gibson and he in later years by Dr. M. L. Samms.

Here it was in the spring of 1905 that two young brothers, Clarence and Frank Donnell of Greensburg, embarked in a sawmill business that flourished until December of the same year when they lost every-thing in a disastrous fire. After replacing the mill that was in successful operation for a number of years a second loss by fire caused the business to be discontinued.

Pastors serving St. Anthony's Parish since Fr. Wagner, who was mentioned in a previous chapter were: Fr. A. J. Uhrich assisted by Frs. Charles Kobey and Leo Schellenberger and the present pastor, Fr. A. J. Schad who assumed charge following the death of Fr. Uhrich in 1939.

In reviewing the township as a whole we find it to be none other than an ideal community in which to live even though lacking many things which some communities have found necessary to possess in order to become ideal places for location.

Until recent years there were no schools here other than the com-

mon or grade schools yet many of the sons and daughters have become successful in the teaching profession. Outstanding among them was Raleigh Shorling, a product of the little rural school at Kammeyer's Corner, who, after gradually advancing in the teaching profession finally reached the heights as the head of a State Teachers College in Michigan where he became the author of a text book which became widely used and which during several years was in use in the schools at Sunman.

The ideas and principles which found lodgement in the minds, hearts and lives of Adams Township people and which were made possible by the character of associates, the trend of entertaining features, the lessons of the school room, the spirit of religious training, the tone of their literature and the environments of home life, have gone far toward determining the splendid character of the community in which they dwell. No native son, in our recollection, has ever been guilty of committing any major crime and but a very few have become entangled in the nets of the law for minor offenses.

Although the township has neither been the birthplace nor the childhood home of any notables it nevertheless has sent forth young men and young women whose careers in the business and the professional worlds have brought credit to themselves and to the communities from which they departed.

In the political field were two young men, Louis Robinson and Estal Bielby, both long since passed on in death who, after becoming prominent attorneys were elected to the office of mayor of the city in which he resided, Mr. Robinson of Mt. Healthy, Ohio and Mr. Bielby of Lawrenceburg, Ind.

Serving as members of the House of Representatives in our state government were: Thomas Sunman Sr., Thomas Sunman Jr., in earlier years and Francis Galbraith, Joseph Westrick and George Bos in later years.

Among County officials were: John Minger, Recorder; Lewis Wetzler, Recorder; George Tyrrell, Sup't. of Schools; Chris Kassendick Treasurer; Harry Galle, Treasurer; Howard Osburn, Clerk for a brief time by appointment after the death of Max Gibson; John Pohlar, Edward Retzner and Harry Behlmer, Commissioners; Dr. C. F. Fletcher, Coroner and Paul Gaab, the present commissioner. Township Trustees included: Frederick Peters, the builder of the first schoolhouse in the township; Martin Carmody, the builder of the

schoolhouse at Sunman in 1880; August Franke, Henry Behlmer, Richard Behlmer, John Schmaltz, Edward Retzner, John Gunter, John Zillebuehler, John Sieg, Jacob Berg, Frank Wipple, and the present official, Chester Wiedeman.

In the field of music the outstanding figure of earlier years was Herman Bellstedt Sr. a master of various instruments whose son, Herman Jr. after becoming a resident of Cincinnati arose to national fame as a composer, a band leader and a solo cornetist. Miss Olive Terry became an accomplished pianist and a capable instructor in the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music from which, in later years, Mrs. Clarence Brinkman, nee Holly Lange, was a graduate pianist. Other accomplished musicians to graduate at this time were: Mrs. Ralph Dreyer, nee Mildred Behlmer, violinist, and Mrs. Sam Scheivley, pianist, both from the Cincinnati College of Music. While another, Frank P. Meister, gained his musical education through a natural gift and in the school of experience he nevertheless became recognized as an accomplished violinist and cornetists and also a capable band leader who spent many years in directing show bands.

In military achievements, the spotlight is upon Arthur E. Ahrends, whose graduation from the West Point Military Academy in the late nineties was followed by rapid promotions in rank until reaching his highest as a Colonel during World War I. A graduate of the War College at Washington D. C. he was retired soon after the end of hostilities and is now enjoying private life at his home in California. Another Adams Township young man to receive a Congressional appointment was John (Jack) Hofmockel who is now a student in the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md.

While the people of Adams Township were always interested in sports and especially in baseball in which Sunman and Morris were always represented by good amateur teams, they were never represented on the professional field until during a recent year when Sam Scheivley graduated from the sandlot and became a pitcher for the Louisville Colonels of the American Association. Soon after, however, the advent of World War II halted his baseball activities in baseball which eventually changed his intended career that took him out of organized ball.

Another great sport in which our people are deeply interested is basketball and the township has supplied a goodly number of fine

players who composed winning high school teams years after year since the game was brought to Sunman in one of the years of the late teams until the past three years when they were compelled to look upon persistent losers.

In railroad life the township has been represented in practically all departments of railroad service. Of those entering into train service as locomotive firemen there were but three, Henry Buchloh, George (Butch) Diver and Ben Schuck who were spared to complete their allotted terms of service to become retired engineers. As to others, the careers of Conductors, John Meye-rose and Cornelius Diver were ended by natural deaths and the careers of Conductor Ben Bauer, Fireman, Charles Stille and Fred Wolter and Brakeman Edward King and Theodore Grosekloose were cut short by death in accidents while each was in the performance of his duty.

Of those employed in the maintenance department: John Diver, carpenter; Harry Schuck, painter; Herman Nordloh and Thomas Meade, section foremen were the only ones thus far whose years of service ended in retirement. John Hendrixson, another section foreman with many years of service was killed while in the performance of his duty in 1896.

Men who have been in charge of railroad interests at Sunman as station agents since the retirement of the veteran, George Ashton have been: Walter Brinkman, C. A. Marlin, George Rood and the present agent, Raymond Yates.

Telegraph operators who have worked at the tower one-half mile west of town and who have guarded the lives of thousands upon thousands of rail passengers along through the years since the installation of the present interlocking system of running trains have been: Charles Bettis, William Hollie Van Wedding, James Ezell, Charles Ray, Howard Palmer, John Schnelle and the trio now on duty, Harry Atkinson, James Dawdy and Buford Brockman. Several other of Adams Township's contributions to railroad service have been Harry Bruns, soon to be retired, Miss Alice Andrews, the present station agent at Greensburg and Andrew Hornung, a telegrapher long since passed on. Many others there were who were employed in railroad work as carpenters, painters, trackmen and in transportation service for brief periods of time.

Although we have aimed at accuracy throughout this writing, some errors and omissions have,

no doubt, been found so in order to supply some that might be missing in the mention of Sunman business people we submit the following lists: Barbers include: Anthony Wolter, William Koenig, William Osting, James Hoog, Herman Dreyer Jr., John Hashagen, Chas. Hashagen, Joseph Wirtz, William Ferris, Charles Morrow, Guss Brunner, Oldham Holland, James Coyle, Walter Redington, John Ahrens, Everett Conway and the two now in business, Paul Forthoffer and Harvey Mosmeier.

Saloonists: Andrew Downs, John Martz, John Schlicht, Patrick Diver, Michael Becker, Henry Schuck, Fred Wolter, George Price, John Heavey, John Busching, William Ahrens, Fred Luhring, Michael Wippel, Jacob Gutzwiller, Joseph Stier, Martin Nistler, Edward Hornberger, Martin Mollenkamp, Abner Rowling, John Bush, John Ross, John J. Hoff, Edward Cook, John Schuck, John Westrick, Bauerlin Bros., Michael Schneider, Russell Schuck and the three now in business, Joseph Wippel, Henry Morton and Roy Hoff.

Postmasters and postmistresses include: Miles Ashton, George Ashton, Henry Schuck, Valentine Hartman, V. W. Bigney, W. W. McMullen, Henry Price, Edith Wetzler, Harry Behlmer and the present mistress, Virginia Tratuman.

Worthy of special mention at this time are: Joseph Wippel and Henry Price, veteran businessmen of Sunman. Mr. Wippel's forty-nine years as a saloonist and Mr. Price's forty-seven years in a confectionery and ice-cream business are records well-earned. Forty of Mr. Price's years have also been spent in an insurance business.

While Adams Township has thus far escaped publicity in newspaper headlines about murder having been committed within its boundaries it has not however been free from accounts of tragic deaths as forty have died by fire, drowning, train accidents, automobile accidents and suicide.

And too, while it has escaped property loss from tornadoes, of nature it has not been spared loss by fire as during its course of years there have been thirty disastrous fires that have caused a total loss of thousands of dollars to township property owners.

Adams Township, like all other townships of the county, state and nation, had its weather, good and bad. Days of rain and days of clear, floods and other destructive forces weather conditions were controlled by the hands of man.

According to our record of weather conditions at Sunman and

a period of thirty-five years from the immediate vicinity, kept over January 1, 1913 to December 31, 1948, we find that rain, snow or sleet fell on a total of 4,726 days. The year 1915 was the wettest with 150 days of precipitation. The wettest month was May of 1924 with rainfall on 24 days. The driest year was 1922 with but 105 days of precipitation and the driest month was July of 1924 with rain falling on but 2 days. The coldest day was January 19, 1940 when the temperature dropped to 20 below zero and the hottest day was July 28, 1930 balmy weather but none on which when a temperature of 106 in the shade was registered.

A prolonged spell of frigid weather with deep snow and heavy ice that lasted over a period of some five weeks in December of 1917 and January of 1918 had people wondering as to whether they were residents of Sunman or of Admiral Byrd's "Little America" at Antarctica. In December with day after day of low temperature ranging from zero to 12 below the ice covering the ponds attained a thickness of 14 inches and in January a continued snowfall of several days covered the ground to a depth of 18 inches with drifts from 8 to 10 feet deep.

Having also kept a record of deaths and fatal accidents as occurred in this area over the same period of time we find that 310 citizens have died from natural causes and 25 have met death in accidents are by their own hands.

In conclusion we must say that while Spades and Penntown have been in reverse and Morris has succeeded only in holding her own or maybe experienced a slight growth, the growth of Sunman, although never rapid has been steady.

Each year, since the erection of the first cabin here in 1851 has saw the addition of a new home or a new business building and while none are of pretentious architecture yet all are of substantial build with a proper regard to taste and with an undisputed fact that nine-tenths of them are owned by their occupants and free of debt.

As a place of business Sunman is not surpassed by any town of its size in the Middle West, for even though the greater part of a once rich timberland that for many years supplied woodworking industries here with the finest of material, has now been cleared, the town is surrounded by a soil well adapted to agriculture and which is kept under a good state of cultivation by a farm people who take pride in producing the best and the most

Thus have you been given a fair description of your home towns and your township which has covered approximately one hundred thirty-five years and although not complete in every detail it will nevertheless make you better acquainted with the place you call your home or has been your former home. To those who might desire to locate here we cannot open up the future for its destiny through the years to come rests with Him who has guided it through the preceding years.

Our thoughts go wandering when daylight fades,
To the time of long ago,
And memory paints the scenes of old,
In the gold of the twilight glow.
We seem to see in the soft dim light,
Scenes we loved the best,
And think of them when the sun's last ray,
Goes down in the far off west.

The seemingly impossible as told by Ripley in his "Believe It Or Not" columns or the "Tall Stories" as once aired by Lowell Thomas, has nothing on the "True Incidents Of Yesteryear" as occurred in and about Sunman. The following incidents are facts not marred by the stretching of the truth and are known to be such by the writer who was a witness to some and learned of the others from parties involved who were habitually disposed to speak the truth.

Of the many trees adorning the sidewalks along Sunman streets there is one of outstanding size, age and historical interest. It is the giant red oak that stands on the lawn of the Eulala Vetter property. In the year 1869 it was but a small sapling standing beside a board fence erected along the front of that property which later became the home of Dr. and Mrs. Neufarth. Nailed to the tops of the posts over the entire length were boards with the flat sides up and somewhat like the running-board of a boxcar. As the I & C railroad then passing through the village was yet in infancy with promise of becoming part of a great railway system it is quite natural that some of the village youngsters aspired to become brakemen. Such were the dreams of George Tratuman, Willie Stephens and Johnny Diver who, in order to become properly trained before applying for jobs utilized the fence as an imaginary freight train over which they would walk in a balancing act as they waved their tin bucket lanterns to signal the "hoghead" as he hit the curves at thirty-five miles per hour. All would go well until the brakemen reached the car beside the sapling

over which the running-board was missing. Balancing themselves to reach the sapling they would grasp its top and swing to the ground.

Today, after four score of years, the sapling is now a majestic tree with a base circumference of fourteen feet at usual cutting height and with a limb spread of eighty-five feet. While none of the boys mentioned ever became trainmen all at some time in their lives were engaged in railroad work in other departments of service. Mr. Diver, the only survivor of the trio, and a retired railroad carpenter, is a resident of St. Louis, Mo.

To lose something and then find it shortly after or to have it soon returned by another finder, is just an ordinary occurrence except in rare cases such as follows:

One that might be compared to the proverbial "Needle In The Haystack" occurred some thirty-six years ago at the time when Abner Rawling was engaged in a tobacco packing business in Sunman. An employee, Louis Bush, lost a small padlock key while bulking tobacco and found it some months later while tearing down the bulk for packing. The key was in the midst of thousands of pounds of leaf tobacco.

While in the home of a neighbor, John Bruns, at a time when Mr. Bruns was undergoing the ordeal of shaving himself, the writer noted that the whisker remover was just a plain Barlow pocket knife. A question brought forth the story that Mr. Bruns had lost the knife at a time while working in his garden and that five years later he had unearthed it while plowing. It was a perfect job of cleaning and sharpening a fine grade of steel one does not find in the pocket knives of today.

And here is a happening involving Edward Dieselberg, now a resident of Batesville who, while residing at Sunman some years ago, was enjoying a birdseye view of the old home town from the open cockpit of an airplane when a sudden gust of wind tore his eye glasses from his face. Drifting slowly to earth they landed upon a garden plot of a near neighbor where they were found some months later when the garden owner was cleaning off the ground in preparation for spring plowing. The specks were intact and not harmed by the fall or by exposure to the weather.

Another is the story of a finger ring written from an incident that occurred not long after the turn of the century. The ring, worn by Theodore Grose, was lost in the water of the railroad pond east of

Sunman when he plunged in for a swim. A thorough search proved futile, but some three years later another swimmer, Leonard Beer, upon removing a supposed pebble that had become wedged between his toes found it to be the lost ring that today is a valued keepsake belonging to Henry Grose, a brother of Theodore who met death in a railroad accident a short time after losing the ring.

Back during the days when horse-drawn vehicles were the only means of transportation between farm homes and town practically every business place in Sunman had its hitching post or rack to which the farmers would tie their horses in order to be assured of a means of getting back home but not always did they afford assurance as in the case of William Anderson, a farmer of the Hubbles vicinity east of Sunman whose spirited team of young horses, drawing a covered spring wagon became frightened at a passing train and broke loose from a rack that stood at a point on the street opposite the present business place of Joseph Wippel.

Dashing westward to the saw-mill property they made a sharp turn to the right, passed between the old railroad pond and a canal and headed eastward over the single track railroad. Passing through town at top speed with the wagon swaying from side to side, the mad pace continued as if an effort was being made to catch up with the trouble making train. Upon arrival at the Follick crossing after a mile and a half run the team took to the dirt road that led towards home another mile distant where they were found enjoying a feed at a straw stack with wagon intact and themselves uninjured.

The escape was miraculous when considering the route passed over. Two and one half miles or more, over rails and crossties, through several cattle guards then in use at all crossings, around sharp curves, up hill and down, through chuck holes and over ruts, without damage other than the loss of the rear seat of the wagon that was jolted out about midway on the route.

During the years before the discovery of the means of preserving dead bodies by embalming, a corpse, in order to be kept a few days before burial was packed in ice. This method of preservation, however, could not be used in the shipment of bodies over a long distance which therefore required that burial be made near the place of death.

Knowing the preservative power



Ruins of the Galbraith sawmill at Sunman, destroyed by fire on the evening of May 16, 1942.



The Naas Corp. Canning Plant at Sunman.



Cake of 14 inch ice cut from the mill pond in January, 1917. Standing on the cake from left to right are, William Stephens, William Dreyer and George Cook. On the ground are, Emil Goldsmith, John Heavey, Henry Clemens, William McMullen, Henry Price and John J. Hoff. Holding the team is Dan Scheele.



Threshing scene as carried on in 1940 on the Lynn Bigney property



Big Four Depot at Sunman.



Looking west over the Meridian St. crossing of the railroad at Sunman. Sometimes called "The Crossing of Death" because of the many accidents that have occurred on the spot.

of alcohol and without regard to cost the relatives of Robert Sunman, a young soldier who had given his life during the Mexican War had the body enclosed in a cask of whiskey in which it arrived from Mexico and was buried upon the farm of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Sunman who owned a tract of land about a mile west of Penntown that is now owned by Everett Scofield. The dead soldier was an uncle to the late T. W. W. Sunman.

It is two o'clock in the morning of a warm, balmy night in late June of the year 1886. The village of Sunman is wrapped in slumber except for a lone man, Dick Mitchell, night telegraph operator at the railroad depot. He is at his post of duty keeping vigil over the safety of passengers and train crews who pass his way. Suddenly, through the window, he sees a flash of flame dart out from the pit of a grain elevator that stood on the opposite side of the track. Being handicapped by the loss of a leg some years before, Mr. Mitchell realizes that he cannot fight the blaze alone so spreads the alarm. Soon his cries of "fire" are drowned by the roar of "fire" but the citizens have been awakened and are handicapped by not having fire fighting equipment other than are soon upon the scene. They too, buckets and so find themselves helpless to do battle against the leaping flames. At daybreak they looked upon piles of smoking ruins where once stood five buildings. It was Sunman's first disastrous fire and prompted the organization of its first volunteer fire company and the purchase of new equipment that served for many years in protecting property and preventing a repetition of the scene until the late afternoon of Thursday, March 23, 1905, a beautiful clear day fanned by a brisk, warm breeze from the southwest that was laden with the freshness of springtime and bringing a renewed life to nature's beauties after a long, hard winter. The streets were practically deserted and the town seemed to be resting in a calm that precedes a storm which proved to be a reality when a sudden burst of smoke and flame from the rear of a large laundry barn brought the citizens forth to battle their worst fire in history for when the dawn of the next day arrived they looked upon the smoldering ruins of twenty-one buildings that had composed the business center of town.

Could the old barn that once stood upon the site now occupied by the cottage of the writer of this history, have been endowed with the faculty of speech it could have

told of a stirring scene that was enacted almost at its large front doors. At the time of this incident about which we write, the land across the road from this barn was covered with timber along which a rail fence had been built. The roadway, now State Road 101 was then known as the Versailles-Brookville road. It was along this fence on a hot day in August of 1862 that a long line of young men from Adams Township were sworn in as members of Co. G. of the 83rd Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry under the command of Capt. George Morris and Lieutenants George Oldt, Philip Seelinger, Levi Hazen and Thomas Somerville. With shoulders erect but dampened by the tears of mothers, sisters and sweethearts who had gathered to witness this opening scene of Adams Township's part in the great drama of the Rebellion, they marched away to perform heroic deeds and make sacrifices upon the battlefields of the Southland that will forever remain inscribed upon the pages of our Country's history.

Soon after another stirring scene was enacted at the time of the Morgan Raid when Gen. Lew Wallace arrived at Sunman with several companies of Union soldiers from Indianapolis to join in the pursuit of the raiders. Upon finding that pursuit would be useless they went into camp for a week in the woods that covered that area of the village that lay north of the Hubbles road now known as Eastern Avenue, where the villagers had a fine opportunity of becoming better acquainted with army life as it really was at that time.

It was three o'clock in the afternoon of June 29, 1909 when those of Sunman citizens, who were out of doors, were craning their necks skyward at a mammoth balloon as it passed over them in a southerly direction.

That evening when Richard Heisman, a farmer living one mile to the south of town, went to the pasture to drive his cows to the barn lot for the evening milking, he found a paper bag on the outside of which was written: "Dropped from the balloon "Hoosier" by L. L. Custer of the Dayton Journal, Dayton, Ohio, printing the only paper ever issued off the earth and one of the best on the earth. Height, 5600 feet. Left Dayton at 10:00 A. M.

Enclosed in the bag was a note telegram to be sent to Miss May Moore at Dayton which read: "2:30 P. M. and everything OK. Have nine bags ballast. Telegram to collect. L. L. Custer". Two nickels were also enclosed for trouble of sending message.

It was later learned after a landing at Butlerville, some forty miles to the southwest of Sunman, at 4:30 that the balloon filled with 80,000 cubic feet of gas and carrying 18 bags of sand ballast had arose at Dayton at 10:00 A. M. with six members of the staff of the Dayton Journal aboard. The speed of flight averaged 26 miles per hour and several hours after passing over Sunman the balloon had been shot at by a farmer who proved to be a poor marksman but a lucky shot for the occupants. The papers printed in flight were headed, "The Jim Crow Editions".

In conclusion, as memory carries us back over the years, we wonder how many of our readers who are citizens or former citizens of Sunman, remember:

When a debating society drew large crowds to their meetings held in the old school building.

When yokes of oxen were driven over Sunman streets by George Shane and William Neufarth.

When the Osting barber shop was the only place in town where ice cream was for sale and then on Saturday evenings and Sunday only.

When the mention of "Old Jack" usually had its desired effect on an unruly youngster.

When Limburg and Dittmer had a wheeled photo gallery on Eastern Avenue.

When the "Dew Drop" and the "Lean Hoosier" were widely sold brands of Sunman made cigars.

When brickmaking was one of Sunman's leading industries,

When one of our town boys, now a resident of Indianapolis, donned a pair of homemade wings which failed to flap when he dived off the wood shed.

When the Schneider hop patch was a popular place of employment in season as well as a good source of income to ambitious youngsters.

When two fingers held V shape was the sign for a trip to Roepke's Pond, the old swimmin' hole.

When goatees, side-burns and full-grown beards adorned the faces of many of our business men.

When a keen-witted Sunman housewife with an eye for business, got the jump on a book agent by the fraction of a second and sold him six dozen eggs, a jar of apple butter, a loaf of homemade bread, four boxes of ointment for tired feet, a membership to a Welfare society and a years subscription to the Tri County Greeting then being published here.

When the Terry brothers rode the first bicycles brought into the township. The high wheelers with a small wheel trailing, from which a fall usually resulted in more

than cuss words.

When all teenage boys wore knee pants and became men at eighteen when they donned the long, gray jeans.

When Sunman needed no curfew law so long as several haunted houses cleared the streets of youngsters at an early hour.

When most of our property owners had hog pens and backyard butcherings were annual occurrences.

When hopping sleighs was a favorite winter sport and walking back home a tiresome task.

When New Years, St. Valentine's Day, Pentecost, Easter, Fourth of July, the 10th of September, Thanksgiving and a few other days of lesser importance were always celebrated with a big dance and supper at the Big Four Hall.

When "steal chips" — "blackman" and "fox and geese" were favorite games at school.

When sixteen white horses and a lone yellow mule featured a political rally and parade here in '96.

When "Hack for Penntown" and "Twenty-one for a Dollar" were familiar cries heard here on Fourth of July.

When the approach of winter brought dread of the coming change to red flannel underwear.

When large crowds attended the annual winter revival services when oldtime religion was in vogue.

When you was raised to the exalted rank of G. P. W. in the Oriental Princes.

When a mixture of sulphur and lard could be found in every home, as a necessary remedy.

When you and "Old Dobbin" and that new rubber-tired buggy high-hatted everything on the road until the little white Buick made its appearance.

When "Bock Beer" signs were prominent fixtures on some of the business places.

When zero weather formed an iceberg at the railroad water tank that caused bruises and embarrassment to many who passed that way.

When Billy Wright, blackface comedian with "Doc" Darnell's medicine show entertained large crowds nightly for a period of ten weeks.

When the Sunman News and later the Tri County Greeting were weeklies published in Sunman.

When in 1893 you went to see Gen. Frey's army of unemployed as it was in camp some three miles south of Sunman while on its march to Washington D. C.

When you tried your lung power on a little tin tester and then saw

the result of your efforts in a mirror.

When you quietly slipped in at 2:00 A. M. and fell over the dog as the clock struck the hour.

When a spelling match or a query box was always a pleasant ending to a school week on Friday afternoon.

When one of several carpet looms in town made the covering for your parlor floor.

When jumping trains was a popular but dangerous sport that ended with the incorporation of Sunman.

When Sunman's principal social events included an occasional "Mugby Junction" held in the Old Brick Church.

When the shortest route to the old school building was a path across the lots now occupied by the McCool and Louis Cors homes.

When Sailor hats, bustles and mutton leg-sleeves were worn by the gentler sex and Jim Corbett pompadours adorned the heads of their escorts.

When four large kerosene lamps atops posts lighted the way at night for those who used the stepping stones and single board sidewalks and kept them from falling into the deep ditches along the sides of Meridian St.

When Tony Ashton's, Reeds, Colorado Grants, Uncle Tom's Cabin and other traveling wagon shows paid annual visits here and drew large crowds.

When "Comrades" and "The Spanish Cavalier" were the song hits of the day.

When "Rushing the Growler" was a popular and economic pastime for old and young alike.

When Garfield McMullen and Old Tom Schuck were the town boys best friends in horse flesh.

When school girls of all ages wore long skirts, woolen stockings, button shoes and fascinators.

When the livery barn was a popular hangout for boys who gambled with Roly Poly for peewee marbles.

In the compiling of the foregoing history we have mentioned many names, some familiar and some probably unheard of; some with a meaning and some without but all of which has no connection with the following for which we offer an apology to the owners who were residents of Sunman at the time the story was written some years ago.

Names are Names

A weary traveler, clad in the garb of a sailor and bearing a long scar across his left (cheek) as a memento of the crash of his ship against the cold side of a (Berg) on the North Atlantic some years

before, was wending his way along a country road bordered by (Hedges.) Having sailed over the (Waters) of the seven seas for many years and having ships (Sink) from beneath him to go down to a lasting berth in the traditional (Jones) locker he finally (Schuck) off a desire to remain at sea so left his ship in the port of (Camden) on the New Jersey coast and was headed inland where he hoped to spend his remaining years at work a (Smith) at the forge or as a (Miller) or grist at some place far from the smell of salt and the roar of surf.

Knowing that he was in a (Free-land) he had started his journey westward to (Ward) the land of the setting sun and as the shades of night were gathering he began a quest for a place of rest other than a (Coyle) of rope which had often been his bed aboard ship after limping into port after battling a terrific storm which (Reihle) had afflicted no damage to the vessel other than a huge (Dent) the (Diver) sent down to examine in the side of the keel as found by the hull.

Not being used to the life of a (Hillman) the walk over (Hill) and across valley had been exhausting and he welcomed the sight of a tavern with its large sign bearing the words (Beer) and (Wine) but of Cors) it was food and not drink that he needed and in a large order of (Ham), eggs he soon had the (Cook) prepared (Rohls) even though he was (Dreyer) than a fish out of water. He paid his bill without objection to the (Price) and either (Gaynor) sad he looked forward to the (Morrow) when his journey would be resumed.

Awakened by the chirping of (Robbins) he arose in the (Gray) of the dawn of a new (Day) to find the countryside about him resting under a (Vail) of (Hazen) mist but being a happy-og-lucky sort of (Feller) he started to (Schwing) along with the rolling gait of a seaman whose feel of the deck under his feet told him in mute words that his little journey ashore had been naught but a dream so he went to work with a (Hoff) and a puff to (Schwab) the deck of the only home that he knew and which would always remain (Knerr) and dear to him.

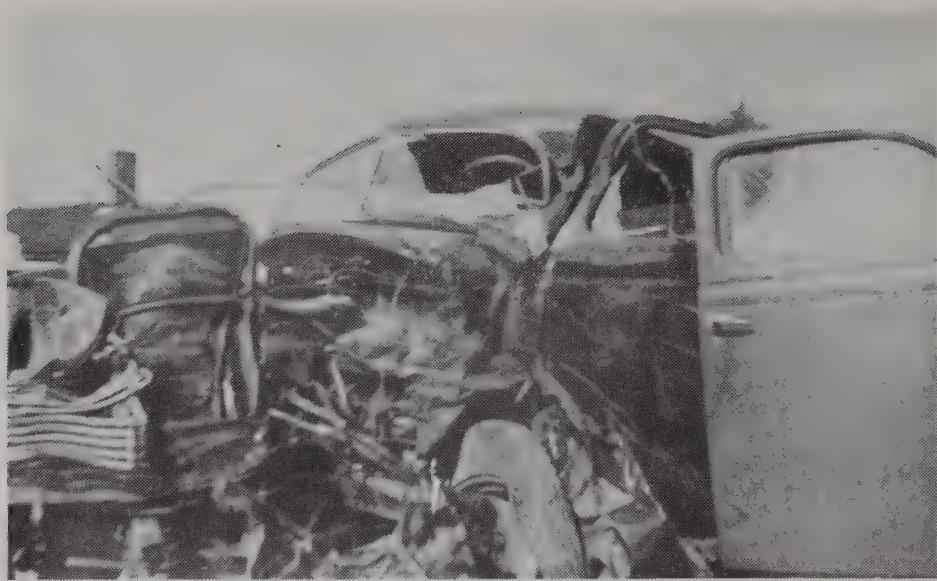
Now that you have read about all that Used-To-Be you may consider these following lines of wisdom about the years of Yet-To-Be from one who writeth about that for it came to pass that the veil of which hath been revealed to him, the future was rent, even as it was



Old "Big Four Hall" erected in 1883 by William Bruns and William Koenig. Now owned by the American Legion Post of Sunman and still used occasionally for dancing. The framework of the building is in an excellent state of preservation.



Masonic Building at Sunman, erected in 1892.



It was somebody's negligence in obedience of traffic and driving rules that caused this wreck near Sunman.



The Bramlage residence and store building at Morris.



The Morris Railroad Depot. Looking east.

cent in the days of the Prophets of Old. The Spirit of Phrophecy hath descended from the Spheres and hath given to us the power to dream strange dreams and to see strange visions of Sunman in time to come.

'Twas but a brief time ago while sitting at home,
With nothing to do but let my thoughts roam,
That I had a dream, but not in slumber,
Like other prophets without number;
A vision of Sunman's future rise,
It certainly had grown to my surprise.
It had been thirty long years since I had left
The dear old town I'd loved the best,
And as I landed here in my aeroplane,
I found a city of wealth and fame,
Whose people during the years that had vanished,
Had spent much money and also had lavished
Time and great care to have big shops and stores,
Factories, mills and city roars.
Street cars run here, railways two,
Bus lines were busy and the air port new,
Tall church steeples pierced the sky,
And several skyscrapers arose on high.
I wrote up the city and with many a word,
For Washington St. had an end at Weisburg;
The city also had several more aids,
With the suburbs of Penntown, St. Nicholas and Spades,
Unsightly sidewalks and streets were unknown,
As all were of cement, asphalt and stone,
Clusters of lights now turned night into day,
To aid me as I passed on my way
To the city hall where I met several friends,
Who greeted me with outstretched hands.
You'll be surprised, but its not a myth,
They were Mayor Don Hofmockel and Police Chief Rex Stith.
The next to greet me was Fire Chief Ed Berger,
And he closely followed by Councilman Webster,
Who was still selling hardware, paints, paper and wire,
Although to be Governor he now did aspire.
As we passed on our way we met Henry Price,
Who still takes pride in having things nice,
Hale and hearty at eighty-five,

As we had known him in days gone by,
And he grasped my hand in his quondom mode,
With the same cordiality he'd always showed.
Meredith Gunter, we learned, is now a wholesaler,
With a large bank account a constant prevailer,
With many employees as busy as bees,
Sending out goods from lines that will please.
Our dream leads us on to a far distant land,
Across the great ocean and a desert of sand,
To a quaint little hut wherein we confess,
We see in all dignity the same Merritt Hess,
Who left his dear hometown some long years ago,
To teach the dumb heathen the way they should go.
Virgil Rose I next aroused,
A wife for life he has espoused,
I found him running a new bank,
As ever a leading citizen of rank.
Dr. James McConnell, physician and surgeon,
Was an ad we read in the "Daily Diversion,"
Owned and edited by Calvin Kemp,
Whose timely investment was money well spent.
Kenneth Selke was running a bus line to Milan,
A beautiful city where the girls put the style on,
While Joseph Fritsch, a most familiar name,
Appears on the show house weather vane,
Joe had not yet seen fit to get married,
And seemed quite content with the cash that he carried.
How fast it seemed had time advanced,
As college and high school enhanced
The power of Sunman's progress rare,
Some of my friends I remembered there.
Viola Robbins, a quite successful teacher,
Is now the wife of a Methodist preacher,
With Mary Ann Dobson, supplying her place,
Though old she is of queenly grace.
Elwin Abplanalp, I chanced to learn,
Was the superintendent, wise and stern.
Virginia Rose had written a book,
An autobiography of General Roger Cook,
Whose father had ceased interring the dead,
With the stoppage of business as 'twas said,
When Cyrus Thompson claimed

he'd found everlasting life in the railroad pond.
In basketball the Tigers were winners,
A team that had changed since the year '48,
Had won the Sectional and gone to the State.
Viola Neukam had accepted a mate,
Who was very good looking though bare on the pate,
A dashing young salesman I soon was to learn,
With Austins and Fords and money to burn.
Another had captured a Russian Duke,
Her name is now Jeanie Von Bro-ski De Puke,
Another we met in this wonderful dream,
whose life was serene,
She had mastered the sax and was ready to hike,
To W L W and a trail at the mike.
The next passing by is a man tall and slender,
Paul Nedderman, by name, and a great inventor,
Whose flea-picking gadget without any cogs,
Was a boon to all families of monkeys and dogs.
George Klaserner who aspired to profesional ball,
Was riding a tractor after missing the ump's call,
A wife he had wed for worse or for better,
Was making him live right up the letter.
Dale Bauer, lon since, had left the old farm,
And gone to the city away from all harm,
Where he soon was established in a great enterprise,
The baking of doughnuts, cookies and pies,
Success in all things can be had if you try,
If not at the start it will come by and by,
As it did to the man seeking political fame,
Who was it? Os Yes, Dallas Lat-tire by name,
Who twice having served his country as sheriff,
Now aspires to the place where they argue the tariff.
A surprise next awaits us as onward we roam,
To halt at the front of a beautiful home,
Wherein lives a man with a wide-spread of name,
Whose interest in radio had brought him world fame,
For Jesse Craig whom we found at work in the attic,
Had discovered a way to eliminate static.

Another, we regret, was surrounded by strife,
When he fell for a dame and got him a wife,
A goofy young damsel who held breath when she sung,
If he married for beauty I know he got stung.
Rebecca Webster, a spinster, is carefree and gay,
Her life is her own as she starts on her way
To the home of some friend to do a good deed,

At a time when trouble has caused a dire need.
And with her Carolyn Hofmockel whose queenly grace,
Is holding back age as she runs her life's race.
Our dream is near ended, we soon shall awake,
There's a rent in the mist and the cloud will soon break,
What is that you are asking? O he's still writing news,
For Kelley at Batesville in his big
"Daily Views."

A paper considered to be one of the best,
Of all that are published in the great Middle West.
And now, my dear readers, you may think this a joke,
To sit here and write all these punk lines of dope,
So with apologies to all and offense to none,
We'll close the old book and call the job done.

THE END





